

AN EXTRAORDINARY CLAIM.

THE 'N. Y. Tribune,' April 13, had the following article:—This year, as for several years past, Miss Anna Ella Carroll comes before Congress with her claim for compensation for services rendered during the civil war. For a while this claim was laughed at on general principles, because Miss Carroll was a woman. Afterwards it was frowned upon, as disrespectful in its essence to some of our great captains. But it gathered strength and consistency all the while, and it at last obtained the suffrages of many Congressmen and the favorable report of a committee. It is now by no means impossible that it may yet be recognised by considerable parties in both Houses, and even that Miss Carroll may some day obtain the compensation she asks. Her claim is certainly an extraordinary one. She asserts and assumes to prove that she originated and suggested to the Government the plan for opening the Mississippi and breaking the rebel power in the southwest, which was finally adopted and carried out. She claims to have made out a detailed plan of the campaign in which our armies ascended the Tennessee river to the decisive position which they occupied on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. She claims further to have written an important series of papers on the Rebellion, for which the War Department promised her a compensation which she has not received. The latter claim is not so serious, and will scarcely hold; but the proofs she brings to sustain her assertions in relation to the Tennessee campaign are of a character which it is almost equally difficult to admit or to deny.

The Hon. Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War, certifies to the justice of the claim in the most positive and unqualified terms. His statement is worth giving in his own words:—

PHILADELPHIA, June 24, 1870.

On or about the 30th of November, 1861, Miss Carroll, as stated in her memorial, called on me, as Assistant Secretary of War, and suggested the propriety of abandoning the expedition which was then preparing to descend the Mississippi River, and to adopt instead the Tennessee River, and handed to me the plan of campaign, as appended to her memorial, which plan I submitted to the Secretary of War, and its general ideas were adopted. On my return from the Southwest, in 1862, I informed Miss Carroll, as she states in her memorial, that through the adoption of this plan the country had been saved millions, and that it entitled her to the kind consideration of Congress.

THOMAS A. SCOTT.

Colonel Scott repeats this unreserved declaration in two or three different forms. The Hon. B. F. Wade is equally emphatic. He says that President Lincoln and Mr. Stanton both informed him that the credit of the Tennessee campaign was due to Miss Carroll. The Hon. O. H. Browning, Senator from Illinois, gives the same evidence with equal distinctness. Chief Justice Evans, of the Supreme Court of Texas goes further into details, giving the case of the memorialist far more fully and strongly than she presents it herself. The venerable Elisha Whittlesey joins in the same representations. Such legal authorities as Reverdy Johnson and Trueman Smith say that the evidence is complete in her favor. Finally, the Military Committee of the Senate in the XLIIst Congress, after maturely weighing the case, reported through their Chairman, Senator Howard of Michigan, that Miss Carroll had established her claim.

The case thus supported is one of the most remarkable ones which has ever come before the National Legislature. The decision is of importance to more than the memorialist. If it is in her favor, the country will, of course, give her ungrudgingly the compensation she deserves, although others have already been munificently paid in money and glory for the work she claims to have done.

An Alabama editor thirsting for subscribers has adopted a singular expedient. Instead of offering as premiums chromos and that sort of rubbish he promises to name his new baby after the person who pays his subscriptions for the newspaper in advance.

HOME RULE IN CANADA.

In Toronto, Canada, steps are being taken to establish a Home Rule Association and though not yet thoroughly organised, it is certain to be a large and influential body. The chairman of the Organisation Committee addressed a letter to his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Lynch, Archbishop of Toronto, asking his countenance for the Association, and the following noble and patriotic reply is the answer of the Prelate:—

St. Michael's Palace, Toronto, April 9, 1874.

Dear Sir.—I do not see any valid objection to your instituting a branch of the Home Rule Association in Toronto. It is creditable to a man's head and heart that whilst he cherishes the land of his adoption he should not forget the land of his birth or that his ancestors.

He is a jealous husband who does not wish his wife to love and succour her parents when she can do so without an injury to her position. Poor Ireland is a mother that claims the loving sympathy of all her children because she suffers. Patriotism is a virtue at whose call a man leaves home and friends, and exposes his life to defend his country; it ranks higher than the love of family. We must not forget that our Blessed Lord wept over Jerusalem.

Home Rule is the right even of barbarians. It would surprise me to find Irishmen in Canada who would not wish to see their country enjoy rights that we enjoy here. The Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada touch, and yet there is no clash of authority with separate legislatures. Ireland appears to be governed in the interests of England and of the wealthy classes. The poor are cast forth from the earth like a noxious weed, and yet the oppression of the poor cries to heaven for vengeance.

Whilst in Ireland lately my eyes wandered over immense tracts of country from the railway cars; it was as desolate as the Campagna of Rome, as if afflicted with malaria, with this difference in the aspect of Ireland, that its Campagna was cut up with hedges, and the fat cattle were more numerous. I noticed in the Catholic churches on Sundays the absence of young men and women. I was told they all had gone to America. The immense sums of money drained from the country by absentee landlords, the taxation sent to England, and the absence of trade and local improvements bespeak the want of a fatherly government. Any movement tending to ameliorate the condition of the people is not purely political; hence, for the sake of Ireland and humanity, whose welfare you seek, you have my blessing on your association.

The Irish are one of the noblest and oldest families in Europe—not destined to be absorbed into another people. They are carrying the light of faith and civilisation to the New World, but their mission is greatly marred by the vast numbers of its people who are pillaged of all earthly goods by inhuman laws and landlords, and cast on these shores in a state of degradation and poverty. A great number of these people, it is true, recover, and become rich and respectable citizens through the prodigious strength of their natural qualities, aided by the grace of God; but alas, there are too many lost who would have fulfilled their noble missions were they able to come to this country under such favorable auspices as other nationalities. Solomon prayed against too much want, lest, compelled by poverty, he should steal, and forswear the name of his God. This is also my prayer for Ireland.

We have no doubt but that the association will be carried on peacefully and constitutionally.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) † JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH,
Archbishop of Toronto.

A doctor was charged in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Grahamestown, with being of unsound mind. The accused had left a letter at a tradesman's to the effect that the writer was tired of his life. He had also applied for a license to purchase a pistol, with the avowed purpose of shooting himself. He was remanded for medical examination. The accused was formerly a surgeon in the Armed Constabulary.

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