

THE CASE OF MR. PARNELL.

DUBLIN, November 20.—Public bodies and the League, with all its branches, came in to pass resolutions of confidence. A monster meeting in support of the Tenants' Defence Fund was held in Leinster Hall, Dublin. The hall was packed from floor to ceiling, and speeches were made strongly in favour of continuing Mr. Parnell in the position of leader of the Irish party. The Lord Mayor presided and nineteen members of Parliament were on the platform. The first resolution was proposed by Mr. Justin McCarthy, the Vice-President of the Irish Parliamentary party, and seconded by Mr. T. Healy. It approved the action of the Irish party in its unswerving allegiance to Mr. Parnell and reasserted the fealty of the Irish people to his leadership. The resolution was supported by Mr. Samuel Walker Q.C., ex-Attorney-General for Ireland.

Among the speakers were Mr. MacDermot, Q.C., ex-Solicitor-General; Messrs. John Redmond, Pierce Mahoney, J. Clancy, and Dr. Kenny, who read amid loud cheers a telegram from the Irish delegates in America to Mr. E. Leamy. On the platform were many distinguished citizens, including members of the Inner and Outer Bar, medical men, and leading merchants, the Lord Mayor and High Sheriff-elect and Burgesses of the City of Dublin. The Mayors of Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Clonmel were also present. The proceedings were most enthusiastic. Everybody seemed not only resolved but determined that Mr. Parnell should continue to lead the party.

London, November 25.—A meeting of the Irish Home Rule members of Parliament was held to-day before the opening of the session of the House of Commons. Mr. Parnell was present. He was loudly cheered as he entered the room. A motion was made that Mr. Parnell be re-elected chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party. It was carried unanimously. It is announced that Mr. Parnell will retain the leadership at the express desire of his followers. Mr. Parnell made an address to the meeting in which he thanked his followers for his re-election. He said it was for the Irish members to decide whether he should lead them. If their decision had been a negative one or there had been any diversity of opinion among them, he would cheerfully have withdrawn from public life. Nothing but the conviction that his colleagues desired to still utilise his services in their common cause induced him to resume a position which, under his altered circumstances, exposed him, and them through him, to the attacks of their opponents.

The Irish Parliamentary delegates who are in America have cabled the following dispatch to their colleagues in Ireland concerning their future attitude towards Parnell's leadership of the Parliamentary party:—

"We stand firmly by the leadership of the man who has brought the Irish people through unparalleled difficulties and dangers from servitude and despair to the very threshold of emancipation, with a genius, courage, and success unequalled in our history. We do so not only out of gratitude for those imperishable services in the past but in the profound conviction that Parnell's statesmanship and matchless qualities as a leader are essential to the safety of our cause."

The Dublin *Irish Catholic* says:—"Mr. Parnell has wounded deeply the moral and religious sense of the people. He has sinned nearly as much against Ireland as against morality. He has needlessly created what may be a barrier to the National movement, but the grave political exigency demands that he continue to be the leader of his party."

United Ireland, commenting on the case, says:—"We do not desire to condone Mr. Parnell's grievous sin; but from Ireland, which he has served so long and faithfully, with such dear devotion and such magnificent success, he may at least look for generous forbearance in the hour of his trial. To his praise be it spoken that he has not attempted to shield himself by perjury. He yielded to a temptation to which many great and wise men have succumbed since and before the days of King David. He has atoned by what to a man of his proud and high spirit must have been indeed bitter and humiliating. But to the Coercionist clamour for his dismissal from the Irish leadership Ireland's answer is sharp and decisive, 'No!' Irishmen have no mission to judge his private life. Leave that to his conscience and to his God, who weighs the temptation with the offence."

The Dublin *Freeman's Journal*, which is the organ of the National party, commenting on the case recalls the private lives of the Duke of Wellington, Lord Nelson, Lord Palmerston, and a number of other prominent personages, who in their time were the subject of scandals similar to that in which Mr. Parnell is now involved in, and it goes on to write:—

"The gabble about the social ostracism to which Mr. Parnell will be subjected is absurd, because he never went into society. The pastors charged with his moral well-being are not the pastors of the majority of the Irish people."

"It is neither our duty nor our province to adjudge his private life, nor to examine his conscience. Ireland's business with him is entirely of a political nature. He has ably, faithfully and successfully served the country, and has brought her out of bondage and led her to within sight of that promised land. A juncture has now been reached where there can be no swapping or changing of leaders. We would not change if we could, and we could not if we would. The Irish, not the English, people will decide if the toil of the nation for years is to be lost, or the fruit of that toil risked because a man had been weak and a woman frail. It is imperative that Mr. Parnell continue as a leader of the Irish Parliamentary party."

The *Nation* says "Mr. Parnell will still lead, and will lead powerfully. There are a few Englishmen, not inconspicuous, who recognise that. Lord Hartington, we note, is one of these. 'Mr. Parnell is a powerful leader,' said Lord Hartington to a Unionist meeting at Grimsby the other evening. 'Was,' interrupted a voice from the gallery. 'Is a powerful leader,' repeated the leader of the Liberal Unionists. It was Lord Hartington who first gave weight

to Pigott's forgeries, and declared they demanded an answer. It is noteworthy that his mind is open to the truth here. Yes, Mr. Parnell will still lead. We recognise his past services; we know he can serve us still in spite of this fall which we all deplore, which we all condemn. We are mindful, too, that in standing out from his own class, and taking his stand by the poor and the down-trodden of his countrymen, he shut himself out from the pleasures and companionships of his old life. He forfeited them for the people; and he thus exposed himself to the plotters by whom he has fallen, and increased their chances. We do not forget either that he has been attacked chiefly because of the work he has done for Ireland. All these recollections, though they cannot raze out the trouble which is written on the brain of Ireland by this untoward event, still justify our resolve to shape our conduct towards our leader now by the necessities of our case, and to march still forward, unitedly and determinedly, along the road which he was the first to lead the strength of Ireland to, and which his judgment and foresight will still be available to decry and to deface—the road to the goal of Irish liberty."

Michael Davitt says in the *Labour World*:—"There is no task we have had to perform since the birth of the *Labour World* that has been so repugnant as is that we have to face with this issue. It is a duty we would gladly avoid if we could do so without earning by our silence a suspicion of indifference. Moreover, silence would be misconstrued. Mr. Parnell is under a moral cloud, which has brought upon himself a crisis into which he precipitated the Home Rule movement. This crisis has been brought about by no other agency than Mr. Parnell's own conduct. We say emphatically that both the Irish and British Home Rulers have the right to look to him alone to deliver the cause of which he has been, until now, the trusted leader from the deadliest peril by which it has just been assailed. Mr. Parnell is called upon to make a sacrifice that is a comparatively small one in return for the many sacrifices which the most confiding and generous people that ever followed a political leader have made for him. He now is called upon to study, not his own political future, not the exigencies of party, but what is the best course to adopt in the interest of Home Rule. There can be no two opinions. Mr. Parnell must remember that he defied popular sentiment. In Ireland he rode rough-shod over the feelings of his own party, when, in 1887, in the presence of another serious crisis, he thrust this man O'Shea upon the electors of Galway. His action then left a wound in the minds of some of his ablest followers which time has not healed."

London, November 20.—Mr. Morley addressed a meeting of the Liberal Federation at Sheffield to-day. Referring to the Parnell case he said they had special difficulties and anxieties at this moment, but they never expected, when they embarked on this voyage, cloudless skies and summer seas. Having put their hands to the work it was their duty to keep the great Irish national question apart from personal considerations which did not belong to it. It was their duty now, as it always had been, to hold that question at the top of the public view. This duty happened to be difficult at a moment when the country was stirred by anxious incidents and painful disclosures, (hear, hear.) This matter might be considered in its proper time and place. But they should not slacken for a moment their devotion to what they had undertaken (prolonged cheering.) Only let them recognise that none of those disclosures in the slightest degree derogated from the justice, urgency, and sacredness of a great cause, (cheers.) That cause was as sound to-day as it ever was, and it became from day to day more urgent as it drew nearer to the final issue (cheers.) So it was more than ever necessary to look at the case on its merits and allow nothing else, however grave, to interfere.

London, November 21.—Mr. Stead, the editor of the *Review of Reviews*, called to-day at the London office of the Dublin *Freeman's Journal* to present an ultimatum to Mr. Parnell, to whom he wished to have it conveyed that unless Mr. Parnell intimated within twenty hours to Mr. Stead that he had resigned the leadership of the Irish party Mr. Stead would proceed to open the batteries of the social purity movement on him. It is not the offence against morals that excited Mr. Stead's wrath, who says in his ultimatum:—

"I am prepared to allow, if you like, that committing adultery is no worse than taking a glass of whiskey." What Mr. Stead alleges to be the cause of his wrath is that Mr. Parnell has deceived his friends. Mr. Stead says that he will publish the *verbatim* report of the proceedings before the divorce court, to which he will prefix a mild criticism and commentary. This pamphlet he proposes to sell at one penny. Mr. Stead declares his opinion that Irish Home Rule may as well be relegated to the planet Saturn unless Mr. Parnell is thrown overboard immediately.

The *London Tablet* says:—"In itself the conduct of Mr. Parnell cannot prejudice the Irish cause in either land. But it will be a different thing if his followers persist in retaining him, in the teeth of his abhorrence of their Liberal allies, as co-leader with Gladstone. Intercourse with Mr. Gladstone will be especially difficult. There ought to be no hesitation on the part of the Nationalists. In the interest of elementary morality Catholics are bound to sever their connection with Mr. Parnell. They may gratefully remember his services, but as a leader he ought to be impossible in the future." All the English weekly Catholic papers are unanimous in their condemnation of Mr. Parnell.

The part of the Protestant religious press of England which has been, on general Christian principles, a strong advocate of Home Rule for Ireland, now goes beyond the Tory newspapers in warmth of language in denouncing Parnell. The anger at his conduct finds expression in some pretty firm sentences. The *Methodist Times* says:—

"If the Irish people are so degraded as to retain Parnell, good-by to Home Rule. We have made many sacrifices to the Irish cause, but if the Irish race deliberately select as their chief a man of Parnell's type they are as incapable of self-government as their bitterest enemies have ever asserted. Such a race would prove themselves to be unfit for anything except a military despotism." Doctor Clifford, the Congregational leader, writes:—"A man legally convicted of immorality cannot lead in legislation. If the members of the Irish party do not wish to alienate the sympathy of the English Radicals