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ADDRESS matter intended for publication 'Editor, TABLET, Dunedin,' and not by name to any member of the Staff.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS are thrown into the waste-paper basket.

Write legibly, ESPECIALLY NAMES of persons and places. Reports of MARRIAGES and DEATHS are not selected or compiled at this Office. To secure insertion they must be verified by our local agent or correspondent, or by the clergyman of the district, or by some subscriber whose handwriting is well known at this office. Such reports must in every case be accompanied by the customary death or marriage announcement, for which a charge of 2s. 6d. is made.

DEATH

KILBRIDE.—On December 25, at the residence of her parents, Southbridge, Patricia Margaret (Triss), beloved daughter of John and Mary Kilbride; aged 19 years.—R.I.P.



To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

LEO. XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1906

THE BURNING QUESTION



ACTS are chiefs that winna ding. And Home Rule is the question that will not down. It has been in the Irish mind ever since the Act of Union was passed 'by force and fraud.' It has been growing in organisation, unity, and volume ever since the dawn of the Repeal movement. And to-day it is voluminously alive and active—the great burning question of politics on both sides of the Irish Sea.

The broad grounds of the demand for Home Rule remain as urgent and unanswerable as when O'Connell started his crusade for Repeal in the days of 'Scorpion Stanley.' The hapless country—from which the people are fleeing in shiploads as from a pest-stricken land—is to this hour ruled, not by its people (who have no right of control whatever over her affairs), but by a Parliament sitting in Westminster. The Executive Authority consists of a knot of imported oligarchs sitting in Dublin Castle, and foreign in race, religion, and political aspirations to the people whom they govern. They are wholly independent of popular responsibility or control. And, in unbroken succession, they have ever acted in the interests of a sectional and sectarian Ascendancy that is as real, if not as omnipotent, a factor in Irish public life to-day as it was before the Catholic Emancipation Act was placed upon the British Statute Book. Vacillation, incompetence, and ignorance of the conditions of the country were (as Mr. Redmond lately remarked) the hall-marks of the late Administration, as they have been of every British Government that ever attempted to rule the 'Sister' Isle. And caprice and callous disregard of the rights and feelings of the people have been the outstanding characteristics of the institution that is known in Ireland by the hated name of Dublin Castle. In a recent speech in Glasgow Mr. Redmond said:—

"The Irish people have no voice in the management of their own affairs. I do not mean by that that they have no voice in the House of Commons. The curious thing about their position in the House of Commons is this: that while we are powerless in the settlement of Irish affairs, we sometimes play a very important part in English affairs. The Government of Ireland has been, and is to-day, the most inefficient and costly Government of all Europe. In proportion to population, Ireland is the most expensively governed country in the whole world. The cost of government is double that of Belgium, and yet we have the admission of English statesmen that, as far as education is concerned, Ireland is far behind the least progressive country in Europe. And yet Irish industries are falling back—thousands of acres of land are lying derelict, her waterways are left neglected and the railway rates in Ireland are fifty per cent. higher than those in any other country in Europe. Nothing is being done for the better housing of the poor, and all this vast costly machinery of Government is carried on for the benefit of a small section of the people whose loyalty has always been conditional upon their own profits and emoluments. The cost of government in Ireland is increasing. Ten years ago the total taxation was seven millions; to-day it is over ten millions. This is monstrous, in view of the

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