

rapid decrease in the population of the country. Only those who have place, or expect to get place, are content with the present condition of things in Ireland.'

It has been Ireland's crowning misfortune that for centuries past racial and religious prejudice have been the guiding principles on which she has been ruled. It is an evil tradition,

'But 'tis a bitter woe
That love or reason cannot change.'

Time, says Byron, strips illusions of their hue,

'And one by one, in turn, some grand mistake
Casts off its bright skin yearly, like the snake.'

The time is more than ripe for the casting off the evil and bitter prejudice which refuses to Ireland what is accorded as a matter of course to every British colony, the right to manage her own internal affairs in her own way.

In his better days Lord Rosebery was an outspoken Home Ruler. He declared that the Irish question was the first and most urgent to dispose of, and that it should be settled by the consent of the Irish people, because (said he) 'when you wish to give a benefit to a nation, it is better to give it something that it likes, than something that it neither likes nor understands.' Even the Tory Administration, when they sent Lord Dudley to Dublin in 1902, gave him (says Mr. Morley) the message that Ireland was to be governed in accordance with Irish ideas. Sir Antony MacDonnell—Indian statesman and Irish Catholic Nationalist—was selected to carry out the new regime. He conferred with patriotic Irishmen. Then (says Mr. Morley) 'the rat-tat was heard on the Orange drum, and the whole thing was "broke" by this Government of courage. Lord Dudley was ignored. Sir Antony MacDonnell was censured. Mr. Wyndham was cast to the wolves. And Mr. Balfour, who was privy to everything from the first, sat snugly in the Treasury, studying his day's lessons.'

'Neither heat nor frost nor thunder
Shall wholly do away, I ween,
The marks of that which once hath been.'

The overwhelming majority of the Irish people demand Home Rule, Scotland and Wales stand for Home Rule. A Home Rule Bill was carried in the British House of Commons by the substantial majority of thirty-four votes. It was, of course, killed in 'the other place'—the non-elective chamber. Even the lame, the halt, the blind, and the imbecile of high-titled capitalism were brought from anear and afar to thwart the will of the people's representatives. The Parliaments of the Australian Commonwealth and the Dominion of Canada have pronounced for Home Rule. 'It will,' says the 'New Zealand Times,' 'be extremely difficult to convince the people of the Britain beyond the seas that a policy which has made them prosperous and loyal would not produce similar results in Ireland. Mr. Balfour and his friends know very well that a denial of self-governing powers to the colonies would have led to separation, as it did in the case of the American colonies, and it is surely idle for them to pretend, in the face of experience, that a policy of coercion and subjugation is fitted to make Ireland contented and loyal.' 'In answer,' says Mr. Redmond, 'to the statesman who asks us to think Imperially, I recommend that gentleman to think Imperially regarding Ireland, whose demand for Home Rule has the support of all the Legislatures of all the Colonies of the British Empire. The cause of Ireland is moving on, not, thank God, by riot, as in Russia, but by reason. The whole civilised world to-day sympathises with our movement. If they took a poll of the Empire they could carry Home Rule any moment by an overwhelming majority. My profound conviction is this: that the day is near when the whole people of

Great Britain will wonder how it was that British statesmen hesitated for a moment in restoring the powers of self-government to Ireland—those powers which, when that day comes, will be proved to have been the means of changing our country from what she is to-day—the one danger in the Empire, the one disgrace, the great disgrace of British statesmanship—into a peaceful, contented, and friendly nation.'

Notes

A Hot Spell

Our tourist traffic is likely to receive a sprightly flip from the conquering heat—ranging up to 134 degrees in the shade—that, as we write, prevails over great stretches of Australia. Two weeks ago our friends across the water were stewing in a torrid glow;

'And now another fervent flood succeeds,
Pour'd on the head profuse.'

It is well to be here in New Zealand—amidst the softly fanning breezes and by the clear running streams of the Green Isle of the South.

The Kaiser

If we are to believe the cable-man, the Kaiser has written 'a sharp and mandatory letter' of an extremely platitudinous character to the distinguished prelate that bears the archiepiscopal staff of Posen, in Prussian Poland. The 'sharpness' of the letter was presumably due to the fact that the Poles do not take over-kindly to the fierce and too often savage repression of their native customs and their native tongue that has disgraced the last few years of Prussian administration in that misgoverned Catholic province. National sentiment is not to be crushed, either in Poland or in Ireland, by the methods of the coercionist and the armed bully. And a combination of dyspepsia and scrofula and imperious temper don't commonly produce a letter that bears the stamp of Vere de Vere.

Nearer Home

Castle officialism in Ireland looks with as little favor on the 'language movement' as does Prussian officialism upon the national tongue of Poland. But even Dublin Castle, much as it dares, cannot at this hour of the twentieth century adopt the fierce coercive measures that are in operation for the suppression of Polish speech and Polish customs in the province of Posen. And yet the last few weeks have witnessed some scenes that reflect the last discredit upon British administration in the place that is called the 'sister' isle. Eamon O'Neill, B.A., of Kinsale, was, for instance, sent to Cork Gaol for the crime of signing in Irish an application for a dog-license. Alderman Cole, of Dublin, has been repeatedly fined for using Irish characters upon his carts. So have sundry scores of others throughout the country. And the Local Government Board (consisting of a number of English nominees sitting in Dublin Castle) have compelled the members of the Wicklow County Council to pay out of their own private purses the cost of having the street-names painted in Irish characters. And is not the old law still in full force which makes it a felony to report in Irish the proceedings of any court of justice? Yet there are some good people who wonder why Ireland is discontented and wants Home Rule.

Jew-baiting

The voice of the Jew-baiter is still heard amidst the 'sturm und drang' of the Russian revolution. In this connection the 'Catholic Sentinel' recalls the attitude of Pope Sixtus V. towards the persecuted Hebrew people at a time when they were sorely buffeted in Wes-

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