

and desolate are now during the summer the goal of thousands of holiday-makers in search of change and beauty. And the secret of this change is this: the railway companies of Ireland have bestirred themselves. They have improved their rolling stock, built new lines, granted facilities for travellers, catered for their patrons, and the hotels have followed suit.

The Lord Lieutenant's Opinions

Lord Aberdeen whilst on a visit to Scotland in the early part of June attended the induction of the United Free Church minister at Methlick, Aberdeenshire; and he availed of the occasion to say something worth the notice of many people in Ulster. The Lord Lieutenant said they had had descriptions of the condition of things in Ireland which, in his opinion, did not give a true picture of the scene which was really to be surveyed there. In some portions of Ireland there were matters which required amendment. They must remember that for centuries there had been errors and mistakes, and, whatever their individual politics might be, they would admit it was a matter of history that in the past there had been terrible blunders in the administration of Ireland. That being so, they must not be surprised if it took some time to get rid of the effect of those past mistakes: they had taken a deep root, and it would take a considerable time to wipe out the effects of tradition and prejudices. With all respect, he asked them not to take so gloomy a view of Ireland as they were sometimes invited to take. A prominent person speaking at the recent Church of Scotland General Assembly spoke in a despondent tone of the difficulties which ministers and members of Presbyterian bodies experienced in parts of Ireland where the vast majority were Roman Catholics. He (Lord Aberdeen) knew that, contrary to the inference intended, they were not subjected to annoyance or inconvenience on account of their religious profession. His Excellency maintained that Catholics wished to 'live and let live' in the matter of religious profession. They respected all men who were worthy of respect, even though they did not belong to the same creed. Meanwhile they hoped that with patience, consideration, and absence of panic, the state of things would improve all round.

A Campaign of Calumny

In the course of an address at a great Home Rule demonstration in Leeds early in June, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., said:— 'We have arrived at a period in the Parliamentary session when it may be useful for us to discuss briefly the work upon which the Irish Party has been engaged in the House of Commons. Since the commencement of this year we have had a strenuous time. I do not think I remember any session of Parliament when the Irishman's voice had a more strenuous time in safeguarding Irish interests. When the year opened in January last we found in existence a widespread conspiracy to represent to the people of England that Ireland was latterly seething with crime and disorder. That conspiracy had its agents in the press in every city in Great Britain. Some of the most powerful statesmen in England were engaged in the work. Many thousands of pounds were subscribed by the enemies of Ireland for the purpose of setting on foot a campaign of calumny in this country. You had people going from town to town in this work, and the whole of the press of London was ringing with a cry against Irish crime and disorder. The English people know now the whole story was a false one. As a matter of fact, Ireland was then, and is now, in an absolute crimeless condition by comparison with England, Scotland, and Wales. Our first duty when Parliament met was to put an end to this conspiracy; and I am glad to say that there is not now to be found in any part of England any public journal or partisan to repeat these calumnies which in January last were rife everywhere the little band of Ulster Unionist members, appropriately named by Mr. Birrell "carion crows," had been. Mr. Walter Long, who was elected as their leader, intends to sever his connection with them, and to look for an English seat. He was a man of strong opinions, but my opinion of him is that he is a blunt, somewhat irascible Englishman, and I believe he was at one time convinced of the truth of many of the calumnies against Ireland, but that his close association with the party of Carion Crows has had such an effect upon his blunt, honest nature that he has now severed his connection with them. Why do I dwell upon this matter? Because I want to show you that even if the Irish Party never did any constructive political work at all, if they were solely a defensive organisation we could justify upon that ground alone our political existence.'

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People We Hear About

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain celebrated the 72nd anniversary of his birthday on July 6. Replying to congratulations sent to him, he declared that victory for tariff reform in England was certain, and was coming very soon.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, two years ago, severed his connection with 'M.A.P.', an organ which he founded, and established 'P.T.O.' Negotiations have been proceeding for some time between Messrs. Pearson and Mr. O'Connor, and these have now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, with the result that Mr. O'Connor has resumed the editorship of 'M.A.P.', with which 'P.T.O.' will be amalgamated. He is also responsible now for the editorship of 'T.P.'s Weekly' and of the 'Era.'

Lord Petre died on June 9 at Thorndon Hall, Essex. The deceased, who was the fourteenth baron, was 50 years of age. He belonged to a well-known Catholic family. The first baron's father was a principal Secretary of State under Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. The fourth baron was committed to the Tower at the time of Oates's plot in 1678, and died there in 1683. The deceased peer is succeeded by his brother, Hon. Philip Petre. Lord Petre had been ill for nearly a year, and spent the winter at Mentone.

Admiral Charles Sillman Sperry, who commands the American Fleet, which has arrived at Auckland, has worked through all branches of the service. He is 61 years of age. When 19 he graduated at the United States Naval Academy, and received the rank of ensign two years later. In March, 1869, he was made a master, and after various promotions was made a captain in July, 1900, and a rear-admiral in May, 1906. He was president of the United States War College in 1903. In addition to his wide naval knowledge, he has a diplomatic reputation, and has been entrusted with most important missions. In 1906, when a conference was held at Geneva, for a revision of the Geneva Convention for the treatment of the sick and wounded in war, Rear-Admiral Sperry was one of the delegates from the United States. In the following year he attended the Peace Conference at the Hague as a representative of the United States Government.

Throughout his life King Edward has given far more time than most of us are aware of to the study of French customs and institutions, and the characteristics of the people of France (says 'M.A.P.').; and President Fallieres has gone back to Paris with an opinion of his recent Royal host practically identical with that expressed by General Boulanger after a notable interview with his Majesty (then Prince of Wales) at Lord Randolph Churchill's house in London many years ago. 'His Royal Highness,' confided the French soldier-statesman to a friend, 'knows the political history of France more intimately than many of the statesmen of the country, and can speak French better than most of us. He knows our leading men and their records, their strength, and their weakness. He could form a French Ministry that would be as near perfection as it is possible for any Ministry to be.'

The birth of a son and heir to the Duke of Norfolk recalls the fact that this distinguished Catholic nobleman can trace his descent back to a century before the Norman conquest, to the days of Hereward the Wake, for the name Howard is a corruption of Hereward. His full list of titles is: Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Arundel, Baron Fitzalan, Baron Oswaldestre, Earl of Surrey, Earl of Norfolk, Baron Clun, Baron Maltravers. The dukedom and the earldom of Surrey were created in 1483, and the dignity of Earl Marshal in 1672. A fresh creation of the dukedom in 1514 commemorated the English victory at Flodden, when, curiously, Lord Herries, an ancestor of the duchess, was killed among the Scots. The great wealth of the family is said to have begun with the appropriation during Henry VIII.'s reign of the property of the Bishopric of Norwich. To-day the Duke of Norfolk owns 50,000 acres. The Duke's property between the Thames and the Strand is known by the repetition of his Grace's various titles in the names of the streets and the blocks. The revenues are said to be bound up to be used only for the improvement of the Arundel estate. At any rate, some £600,000 was spent last century on that beautiful home. From Sheffield the Duke draws at least £36,000 a year. When the market tolls were commuted the city paid £500,000 down, and the present duke inherited £80,000 from sales of land in Sheffield.

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