

late Queen and the present King and Queen were, within the past few years, made the objects of virulent public attack by prominent members of this oath-bound fraternity and by one, at least of its chief organs in the Press. The Orange institution evidently styles itself 'loyal' on the same principle that the trembling coward Bob Acres called himself 'Fighting Bob.'

THE LATE
QUEEN AND
CATHOLICS.

BUT the kindly old Queen went serenely on her beneficent way, not knowing or particularly caring that a few of her undutiful subjects were dislocating their supple tongues in vehement protests against the spirit of

womanly sympathy which she displayed towards her Catholic subjects. Some time ago as many as six Catholics were members of her Privy Council. Catholic Generals, such as Butler, Dillon, etc., won battles for her. A Catholic Admiral (White) helped to 'rule the Queen's navee.' A Catholic statesman (Lord Ripon) ruled India in her name better than any of his predecessors. One of her favorite Lords Chamberlain was a Catholic. Cardinal Vaughan was invited by her and the present King to Royal garden parties. The late Queen was a frequent purchaser of pictures from the Catholic artists, Mr. Herbert, R.A., and Miss Alice Havers. In 1895, and again in 1896, she presented vestments to Catholic churches. She was a constant friend and patron of the great orphanage and home for aged poor conducted by the Nazareth Nuns at Hammersmith, London. And from time to time messages of kindness and good-will passed between her and that other grand old monarch who from the Vatican rules over an even wider empire than that which owned allegiance to the Empress-Queen who has so recently passed away.

THE long reign that has just closed was one ONE DARK SPOT. of unexampled prosperity for the Empire. The one blighted spot within its broad boundaries was the poor Cinderella nation, the step-sister isle, Green Eire of the Tears. 'Of course,' as Justin McCarthy points out in his chapter on the Jubilee of 1887, 'no educated Irishman imagined for a moment that the Queen was responsible for the long denial of good laws to Ireland, or for the introduction of coercion measures, any more than she was for the enormous financial overcharges put upon Ireland, which the inquiry of the late Parliamentary Commission has disclosed. It is not likely,' he continues, 'that there was one single man or woman in Ireland who had not a thorough feeling of respect for the Queen personally. She was regarded everywhere in Ireland as a noble example to wives and to mothers.'

But the period covered by the record reign was one of phenomenal disaster for the Green Isle. The unhappy country was searched as with lamps by all the concentrated evils of Pandora's box. It was swept by an artificially created famine—one of the most fearful of which history bears a record. In sixty years, according to Mulhall's *National Progress* (p. 4), no fewer than 4,950,000 Irish people emigrated from their wretched country to the United States, Australia, and Canada; and the population, which stood at 8,200,000 in 1841, dwindled down to 4,550,000 in 1896. The same distinguished authority points out that during the sixty-two years, 1833-1895, 'England quadrupled, Scotland trebled, her wealth, while Ireland declined £100,000,000.' And yet the taxation on Ireland has increased out of all proportion to that of the flourishing sister countries of the British Isles. Between 1846 and 1890, says Mulhall, 'the rates and taxes on farmers increased 60 per cent. in England, 100 per cent. in Scotland, and 145 per cent. in Ireland.' 'The incidence of taxation per inhabitant in Great Britain is the same (1897) as at the beginning of the (late Queen's) reign,' Mulhall says in the same work (p. 61), 'but in Ireland it has more than doubled. In Great Britain each inhabitant pays now (1897) one shilling more, in Ireland twenty shillings more, than in 1840. This inequality has arisen simply from the fact that all fiscal legislation since 1840 has been on the assumption of an increasing population, whereas in Ireland the number of inhabitants has declined 45 per cent.' The Royal Commission of 1897 was, says Justin McCarthy, 'as nearly as possible unanimous in the opinion that Ireland had been taxed far beyond her due proportion. Her condition of poverty rendered her only liable to pay a rate of one-twentieth of English taxation, and she was actually taxed to the amount of rather more than one-twelfth. Therefore, the net result of the inquiry was that for a great many years Ireland had paid annually more than two millions beyond her just proportion of taxation.'

The young and strong are ever flying the land as from a place stricken with the plague, leaving an undue proportion of children and aged to the population. And, says Mulhall, 'while pauperism steadily declines in Great Britain, it is unhappily on the increase in Ireland.' The number of paupers in the country increased from 74,000 in 1870 to 99,000 in 1895, and the cost of their maintenance rose in the same period from

£819,000 to £1,050,000. Commenting on this subject in his *National Progress*, Mulhall says (pp. 87-88): 'The number of paupers has risen 34 per cent., while population has fallen 15 per cent., and thus it comes to pass that the burden which falls on the public is 55 per cent. more than it was in 1870, having risen in the interval from 36 to 56 pence per inhabitant. These figures show that while the condition of the masses is improving in Great Britain the same cannot be said of Ireland.'

The root of the trouble is just this: that successive British administrations have adopted a policy of tinkering at the government of Ireland by endeavoring to rule it in accordance with the views of rack-renting absentee landlords and of the section of noisy and disloyal Orange fanatics in the north-east corner of the Ulster. Thackeray says in his *Irish Sketches* that Englishmen never overcome the difficulty of riding on an Irish jaunting-car. It is evidently not the only Irish difficulty that they have been unable to overcome.

THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN.

THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF HER REIGN.

VICTORIA ALEXANDRINA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, who was born at Kensington Palace, London, on May 24, 1819, died at Osborne, Isle of Wight, on January 22, 1901, in the eighty-second year of her age, and the sixty-fourth of her reign.

In May 1818 the Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III., married the Princess of Leiningen, sister of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. She was a widow with two children, and of this marriage was born on the 24th of May of the following year Alexandrina Victoria, the first name being given in gratitude for some act of kindness to the Duke of Kent from the Czar Alexander of Russia. She alone of a number of Royal children born in that year was English by actual birth. The prospects of Alexandrina Victoria coming to the throne of England appeared at first somewhat remote, as George IV. might marry again on the death of his unacknowledged Queen, whom he hated, and as a matter of fact several children were born to the Duke of Clarence—afterwards William IV.—after the birth of the Princess Victoria. The Duke of Kent died when his child was only eight months old, but the education of the future Queen of England was attended to with the utmost care by her mother.

THE ACCESSION.

William IV. died in the night, and at five in the morning of June 20, 1837, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Royal physician drove up to Buckingham Palace, and had some difficulty in making themselves heard by the sleeping household. In a few minutes the young Queen came in her dressing-gown, and at the words 'Your Majesty' she held out her hand to be kissed. By nine o'clock she was ready for her first Privy Council, where she sat to receive the homage of the Ministers, of whom Viscount Melbourne was Premier. Afterwards she went to St James's Palace to show herself at the window while proclamation of her accession was made by the heralds. 'There was no acclamation,' writes Charlotte M. Yonge, 'loyalty had been a good deal trifled away by the two latter kings, and she had to win it back again.' Her first object was that the debts her father had left should be paid, and for this she avoided all unnecessary expense or display. Her Majesty opened Parliament in person, and Napoleon III., who was then passing through London as an unknown personage, said that no sight had ever more impressed him than that of the youthful maiden on the throne, reading her speech in a sweet clear voice.

THE CORONATION.

The coronation took place on June 28, 1838, when it was decided that instead of a banquet in Westminster Hall, which would only gratify a few, there should be a grand procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. It was said that half a million of people came in from the country to see the pageant and Miss Yonge describes the ceremony as follows:—'Three swords were borne before her, the emblems of justice, of defence, and the blunted Curtana, the sword of mercy, betokening that the sovereign alone can pardon a convicted criminal. Her train was borne by the eight fairest girls to be found among the daughters of the dukes and marquises, all in cloth of gold, with roses in their hair. It is said that the service used was that drawn up by St. Dunstan about the year 979, and with some modifications has been used ever since. After the anointing she took her seat on the throne, or rather St. Edward's Chair, so named from Edward the Confessor. Beneath the seat lies a rough stone, called the *Lia Fail*, or Stone of Destiny. Tradition declares that it was once Jacob's pillow at Bethel, whence it was brought to Cashel, where the kings of Munster sat on it to be crowned. In 513 King Fergus having conquered part of Scotland carried it thither, and the Scottish kings took their seat on it 1296, when Edward I., thinking he had annexed Scotland, transferred it to Westminster, and placed it where it has ever since remained. Here the Queen received the ring betrothing her to her people, the orb of Empire—a small globe surmounted by a cross—and the sceptre of rule.'

1840 to 1861.

The next important event in the life of the late Queen was her marriage to her cousin on February 6, 1840. The Prince Consort was three months junior to her Majesty, and had been carefully