

## Memories

Memories of King Edward VII.'s visit to the Vatican during the Pontificate of Pius IX. (says the London 'Daily Chronicle') are still fresh among the venerable officials of the great palace. Just ten years ago, when Queen Alexandra, with two of her daughters, had an audience of Leo XIII., she was surprised to hear her husband's praises sounded in the headquarters of the Papacy, where, indeed, they never forget. The King, too, in those early days visited many convents and monasteries where, if he now goes again, he will find nuns and monks who will recall to his ears kind words he then spoke, and has himself, no doubt, long since forgotten. Queen Alexandra and her daughters, by the way, when they had their audience, wore the regulation black silk, with veils, and went, for the first time in their lives, to an important call ungloved.

## SCOTLAND.—Papal Chamberlain

Mr. J. C. M. Ogilvie Forbes, of Boyndlie, Aberdeenshire, has been included in the number of Papal Chamberlains.

## Death of Lady Weld

Lady Weld, in religion Mother Mary Gertrude Dolores, died on Maundy Thursday, April 9, at St. Scholastica's Priory, Port Augustus, N.B. She was the widow of the late Sir Frederick A. Weld, who was Governor of Tasmania from 1875 to 1880. He was afterwards Governor in Western Australia and at the Straits Settlements. During their residence in Tasmania (says the 'Monitor') the Governor and his wife gave an edifying example to the Catholics of the country, following the practices of their grand old faith in fervor and humility. There are many living to-day who have pleasant memories of the kindly old Governor and his highly-esteemed lady, both of whom have now gone to their eternal reward. It is worthy of remark that they both took a keen interest in Catholic education, paying frequent visits to the Catholic schools, and sometimes Governor Weld personally tested the educational knowledge of the scholars. The late Lady Weld was the third of the sixteen children of Mr. Ambrose Lisle March de Lisle, of Clarendon and Grace Dieu, Lancashire, England. On retiring from vice-regal line Sir Frederick and Lady Weld went to reside at Chideock Manor, in Dorsetshire. Lady Weld, as already stated, after the death of her husband, went to close her days at the Port Augustus Convent, of which her fourth daughter had been chosen Superior.

## National Convention in Dublin

A great National Convention to consider the Land Bill now before Parliament was opened in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin, on April 16. Mr. John Redmond, M.P., presided, and there was an immense attendance, over 1000 delegates from public bodies, etc., in all parts of Ireland, being present.

The chairman, after formally opening the Conference, said that the Land Bill was proposed by a Government which has an overwhelming majority in the House of Commons, and more than that, a Government that has the control of the House of Lords. On all the essentials Ireland to-day is united as she never was united before. Now, gentlemen, these conditions never existed before with reference to the Irish Land Question. And I take leave to say that in my judgment, if this opportunity is lost in all human probability these conditions will never again arise in our lifetime. The issue is a perfectly plain one. What I would most respectfully urge upon the delegates here to-day is that the issue should be decided frankly and openly that it should not be decided indirectly. The first issue that this assembly ought to consider and to decide is this: Is this Bill as it stands, is this Bill here and now to be rejected? If you say yes, then frankly say so and face the consequences. But if not then I say to you let us address ourselves in a reasonable businesslike, and friendly spirit to the consideration of these amendments which you in your judgment desire the Irish Parliamentary Party to press upon the Government in the House of Commons.

Mr. William O'Brien then moved—That we congratulate the Irish race on the introduction by a British Ministry of a measure which for the first time in the history of land legislation in the Imperial Parliament with the common assent of all parties in Ireland accepts the principle that dual ownership in Ireland must end, and that, after centuries of struggle, the land of Ireland should be restored to the people of Ireland; that the acceptance of this principle promises the removal of the uncertainty, turmoil, and antagonism which have so long rendered peace or contentment impossible in Ireland; that we feel it our duty at the same time to declare that the measure requires serious amendment in various points of importance. The mover said that the real question and the vital question this Conference has to decide is not how much the landlords are to get, but how much the tenants are to pay as the price of a vast National settlement that would afford some substantial hope of rescuing our people from the sea of life-long litigation and the uncertainty in which they are struggling, that would put some check upon the emigration that is wasting away our population to the skeleton of a population, and that would lay the foundations for a better state of feeling in which the powerful loyal minority, who are one-fourth of the population of this country, whether we like it or not, instead of being the most formidable enemies of Home Rule, would find it their interest to live in the country and to obtain influence in

the country, and would find that the only way of obtaining that influence would be by identifying themselves with the people, with the people's happiness, and with their national aspirations. Now, in all these negotiations for the peace of this wasted and distracted country the representatives of the tenants were guided by two principles. The first was that the tenants should not be required to pay more than the fair average market price that prevailed in the open market for the last fifteen years, and that they should obtain immediate reductions which would be equivalent to what they could obtain if they had waited to have third term rents fixed in ten or fifteen years to come. The other principle on which we acted was that the State should pay whatever further indemnity was necessary to induce the landlords to sell—not, again I say, as the mere price of the land, but as the ransom—as the penalty—of getting rid of the fact that the Government have brought in a measure which England is responsible and which has brought landlords as well as tenants to a condition in which—well, it is not too much to say that landlordism is as grievous a curse to the landlords themselves and to England as it is to the Irish people.

According to the 'Irish Times,' a strong Unionist paper, Mr. O'Brien's speech was the most notable item in the first day's programme. He made a most remarkable speech (it said). It is hardly necessary to say that it contained many passages to which we as Unionists cannot possibly subscribe; but, taken as a whole, it was filled with a spirit of broad and tolerant statesmanship which until a few months ago was conspicuously absent from Mr. O'Brien's orations. What the feelings of the meeting were before its delivery we do not pretend to know; but if they were hostile to the Bill they underwent a sudden and remarkable change. After Mr. O'Brien sat down at the end of an hour there was no doubt as to the sentiments of the delegates. They would hardly listen to the speeches of Mr. Patrick White, M.P., who proposed a resolution declaring that the Bill does not merit support on the second reading, and of Father Humphreys, who seconded it. Even Mr. Michael Davitt, though he was listened to with courtesy, could obtain hardly any support for what he described as "a friendly amendment" requesting the Irish Parliamentary Party to state the amendments required on the second reading of the Bill, and adjourning the Convention till after the close of the Committee stage; and he eventually withdrew it at the request of Mr. Redmond and Mr. O'Brien. Finally Mr. O'Brien's first resolution was carried without a dissentient voice. The Bill is over its first fence. There are many obstacles yet to be surmounted, but at least its enemies in England will not be able to claim accursed system which is the work of England, for which is rejected by the very men whom it is proposed to benefit. Mr. William O'Brien deserves well of his country.

On the second day of the Conference various provisions of the Bill were dealt with and several amendments suggested for its improvement. Among the matters discussed were the evicted tenants, land purchase aid fund, the perpetual rent charge, congested districts, housing the working classes, and town tenants.

As announced by cable Major Jameson, M.P. for West Clare, was declared to be no longer a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, as he had flagrantly neglected his duty as an Irish Nationalist. A similar resolution with regard to Mr. Jasper Tully was also passed.

Before the close of the proceedings on the last day of the Conference a resolution in favor of National Self-government for Ireland was moved by the chairman, who said that some of them had recently declared their views that it would be a misfortune to mix up the question of Home Rule with the Land Bill. Some of them took the view that one thing at a time was a good policy, and he, therefore, deprecated any attempt which seemed likely to be made by some of their political friends in England to tack on the Home Rule question to the Land Bill. But these declarations of his and others had been construed by certain English newspapers into some sort of an admission on their part that they were willing to postpone Home Rule. And, therefore, he thought it would be well if this great National assembly should put on record its opinion on the Home Rule question. He, therefore, moved the following resolution:—

'That the first and greatest need of Ireland is National Self-government, and that this Convention reiterates the demand of the Irish people unceasingly made during the past hundred years for the restoration of the full constitutional right of the Irish nation to rule themselves in their own way through an elective legislature responsible to the people of Ireland; and that no other remedy for Irish needs or grievances can or will be accepted by our people as a substitute for our country's supreme and inalienable right of National Self-government.'

Mr. Michael Davitt, in seconding the resolution, which was passed unanimously, said that had they neglected to pass a resolution of that kind at this Convention they would be neglecting the performance of a sacred duty to the National cause. It was absolutely essential that the English people should clearly understand, without the possibility of any doubt, that the settlement of the land question, or the education question, or all other subsidiary questions in which they were interested would not be a satisfaction of the demand of Ireland till the greatest of all questions, National Self-government, was settled, and, secondly, it was absolutely essential that this announcement should go from the Convention to their race throughout the world.

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