

Irish Nationalists who have been supporters of the pledge-bound independent Irish Parliamentary Party in the past, with very, very rare exceptions, is that Mr. Redmond's achievements will shine in the pages of Irish history as those of the greatest and the most successful leader that ever piloted the barque of Irish Nationality.' But Irish Nationalists are not mere 'hero-worshippers' or 'one-man worshippers.' Mr. Donnelly writes:—'We only worship at the shrine, in politics, of Irish Nationality. Parnell was beloved by us, but as soon as Parnell's leadership seemed detrimental to the interests of Irish Nationality we cast him from us, though with many pangs. William O'Brien was, with us, almost an idol; but as soon as he started to sow the seeds of faction we also threw him overboard, though it grieved us. We would dispense with Mr. Redmond to-morrow, though to-day he is almost as dear to us as life, if we considered his leadership stood in the way of Irish nationality; but we mean to stand by Redmond, and why—because he is doing his duty honestly and manfully, regardless of whom it may please either here or in America.' As it happens that practically all the Nationalists of Ireland and 95 per cent. of their brethren in America are wholeheartedly at one with the Irish people's chosen and faithful leader, the question of 'dispensing' with him need not be discussed. We (*Irish News*) quote one more passage from the Armagh patriot's trenchant letter: 'Cranks, faddists, and traitors to Ireland's cause may try to belittle the Home Rule Act now on the Statute Book of this realm; but the best political experts, both here and in America, pronounce it a good settlement of the international fight and a better Home Rule Act than ever Butt or Parnell dreamed of. If it were possible for those enemies of the Irish Parliamentary Party who, you know, have always been enemies of that Party, to succeed in returning to power as the Government of England the Unionists and thereby destroying our present charter of liberty, what have they in store for Ireland? "Physical force" has been tried again and again, and the fact is that the purest patriots Ireland ever possessed gave it up as a forlorn hope and inaugurated the present constitutional agitation. I am speaking of the pure souled Michael Davitt, with Brennan, Sheridan, J. J. O'Kelly, J. F. X. O'Brien, and in fact, the whole bone and sinew of the grand league and pledge bound, independent Irish Parliamentary Party.' Facts and arguments thus cleverly marshalled and plainly stated will soon dispel any delusions that may prevail regarding the state of affairs in Ireland amongst our exiled fellow-countrymen.

THE CLANRICARDE ESTATE.

The decision of the House of Lords on Lord Clanricarde's appeal against the claim of the Congested Districts Board to acquire his estate has been warmly welcomed in Ireland. Lord Clanricarde is one of the men who increased the British Government's difficulties in governing Ireland. His dealings with his tenants were such that they caused a fierce popular agitation, and Mr. Arthur Balfour could make no defence for them, though he placed the armed forces of the Crown at the disposal of the evictor. For defending the tenants leading politicians were again and again sent to gaol. The late Mr. John Roche, M.P., and Mr. P. J. McDermott, ex-M.P., were consigned to prison over a dozen times. The sufferings of the evicted, not a few of whom fell victims to the hardships they endured, aroused indignation throughout Ireland, but Lord Clanricarde did not alter his policy. He fought stubbornly for every relic of feudal power that remained to him, and now he finds himself mulcted in heavy expenses for resisting to the last the efforts of the Congested Districts Board to secure the estate by purchase for the relief of congestion. The decision of the Lords in the case is of more than ordinary importance, for it widens the interpretation of the powers assigned to the Board, and enables them to buy compulsorily the whole of an estate any portion of which, on examination, they consider suitable for the purpose for which they were appointed.

Somewhere, some time, all good work must prevail.

People We Hear About

The new 'Father' of the House of Commons, in succession to Mr. Thomas Burt, whose retirement is announced, will be Mr. Stuart Wortley. Mr. Burt has sat continuously in Parliament since the year 1874, and Mr. Stuart Wortley since 1880. Mr. T. P. O'Connor possesses an almost equal claim to the title. He also has sat uninterruptedly since 1880, but five years of his membership was on behalf of Galway City, before he went to the Scotland Division of Liverpool.

Father Puyade, a distinguished French Benedictine, has fallen on 'the field of honor,' fighting bravely for his country. He was a professor at the Syriac Seminary in Jerusalem, and when the mobilisation was ordered was superintending at the Catholic University of Beyrout the printing of an important work—a collection of Syriac liturgical chants. He was well acquainted with the liturgies of the East. Father Puyade was only thirty-two years old.

Colonel Maurice George Moore, who, in company with Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., inspected 14,000 Nationalist Volunteers at Limerick on December 20, is the son of an Irish politician who was a leader in the tenant right movement half a century ago. For many years Colonel Moore was in the Connaught Rangers, and during the South African campaign he succeeded to the command of the first battalion. Soon after his promotion he helped to remedy the scarcity of mounted men among the British force. Mounting and training some 500 of the Rangers, Colonel Moore formed a mounted column with them, and this did excellent work during the later stages of the war. It is eight years since Colonel Moore left the active list.

It is interesting to recall why the late Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny adopted the name of Kenny. When he was a young officer he went to Brighton (of which he was always fond) for a short holiday, and one stormy day he chanced to look out of the window of his apartments to see an old gentleman vainly endeavoring to cross the road in the teeth of the gale. Young Kelly (as he then was) ran downstairs and, going out, offered his assistance to the old man and safely brought him across the road. To thank him he was invited to dinner that evening by the elderly stranger, and thus a friendship was formed. No one was more surprised than the young officer on the death of his friend to discover that he had left him a goodly inheritance of several thousand pounds a year, and thus it was that the name Kenny was added to Kelly, and henceforth he was known as Kelly-Kenny. By all who knew him he will be sincerely mourned, and by none so deeply as those officers who served with him during his long and distinguished career.

The correspondent of a London Sunday paper states that Lord Castlerosse, the eldest son of Lord Kenmare, who recently returned wounded from the front after a very exciting experience, will probably be obliged to have his arm amputated from the elbow. Lord Castlerosse, who is only twenty-three, was wounded early in the campaign, and was taken prisoner by the Germans, but was subsequently released by the French. Another scion of a noble Catholic house whose fate gave much anxiety to relatives—now happily relieved in part—is Lieutenant Henry Talbot, only son of Lord Edmund Talbot, the chief Unionist Whip, and a nephew of the Duke of Norfolk. Mr. Talbot was serving in the 11th Hussars, of which his father was at one time colonel, and some time ago he was reported as missing. All efforts to obtain news of him proved unavailing for several weeks, but now word has been received to the effect that he fell wounded into the hands of the Germans. He is suffering from a badly fractured thigh, but every hope of his recovery is entertained.

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