

even at a great distance. But I never honored him more than I do to-night, with those noble words of his in my ears and in my heart. (Applause.) I make candid friends and foes a present of them.

Queen Victoria Speaks From the Grave.

Just one other witness from a different quarter. Queen Victoria was not an Irish patriot. Young Australians, perhaps, are not very familiar with her name—such is the vanity of human greatness. But she was the grandmother of George V., she was Queen of England and Empress of India. She was a sensible woman, capable of forming a sensible judgment and then of keeping it to herself. The statement which I am about to read from her Majesty was not made publicly. It was made in a private letter, which, with other letters, is now published for all the world to read. The two volumes will no doubt be found in the private collection of her admirers in Melbourne. But I assume that all can find them in the Public Library. The extract which I am about to read will be found in Vol. II., at page 237. Her Majesty's statement was made long ago, when there was trouble brewing in Austria-Hungary and in Ireland. Ireland was in a state of rebellion against England, and it looked as if the disruption which has overtaken Austria-Hungary in our day might have been then precipitated. The English Government of the day was ready to stamp out revolution in Ireland with ruthless ferocity, and at the same time to sympathise with revolution in Central Europe. How history goes on repeating itself! Queen Victoria was no friend of Ireland. Needless to say, she had no sympathy with Irish claims. I remember a great part of her reign, but I cannot recall one kind or sympathetic act towards Ireland. However, she was a wise woman in many ways, and she was more honest than her Ministers. It was in a wise and honest frame of mind that she wrote the following remarkable and forcible words, an indictment of the dishonesty and hypocrisy of her own country in her own day. Here are her Majesty's words: "It is quite immoral" (a strong word for a woman and a queen) "quite immoral, with Ireland quivering in our grasp and ready to throw off allegiance at any moment, for us to force Austria to give up her lawful possessions." That is strong language from the Queen of England. She is dead, but her words remain, and I am glad to do her Majesty the service of recalling them. (Cheers.) Her indictment of the hypocrisy of her nation is even more telling and biting to-day than when it was written. English representatives are helping to give freedom to the nations into which the Central Empires are broken. Ireland is still quivering in the grasp of England. Yet there are those who would not give Ireland even a hearing. Queen Victoria has pronounced on their conduct in advance. Their discrimination against Ireland is not merely inconsistent, she says, but quite immoral. Now, Mr. de Valera has stronger claims to get a hearing at the Peace Conference, but the words of their wise sovereign should make a strong appeal to loyal Englishmen.

If the Peace Conference Fails Ireland?

But if all appeals to reason fail, if President Wilson be unwilling or unable to get a hearing for Ireland, what then? Ireland can still depend on God and on the stout hearts and hands of her own sons. (Great cheering.) The Irish are the oldest and the purest nation in Europe, and God who has watched and guided them so long can strengthen their weakness, and give them justice and victory, though He be their only helper. May His blessing rest upon all those who are making Ireland's claim and upon all those who give it a hearing. May God bless you and all who love Ireland and hope for her future.

THE MOST OBSTINATE

Corn must quickly yield to BAXTER'S RUBY CORN CURE. Once this remedy is applied there is no escape for the corn—it must give in. Price, 1/-, post free, from Baxter's Pharmacy, Theatre Buildings, Timaru.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

April 12.

A very successful social in aid of the French Red Cross and organised by Mrs. F. Moeller, was held in Princess Hall, Napier, on Wednesday last, when there were some 70 couples present. As a result of this effort a substantial sum will be handed over to this worthy fund.

An official welcome home was on Wednesday night last accorded the returned soldiers of the Taradale district, some thirty of whom were present at the entertainment, which took the form of a social evening. The speakers included Father Hickson, who said it had taken the South African and the recent war to show the qualities of the New Zealanders and he hoped that New Zealand would never give them cause to regret their service abroad.

In the Easter competitions, which commence in Napier this week, a number of convent pupils have entered in the various sections. Among these are:—Church choir—St. Joseph's Native School Choir and St. Joseph's Convent Boarding School Choir; School choir—Sacred Heart High School Choir, St. Joseph's Native School Choir; instrumental (piano)—Misses E. Sattler, B. Eades, K. Dineen, Lett, M. Berry, Doolan, R. McGrath, M. Dallow, E. Kirk, and a number of Maori girls. In the violin section Miss Latapie and Miss M. Collison have both entered. Miss K. Mullany and Miss B. Dallow, also Mr. J. Mullany, have entered in several of the dancing sections.

The mission which was in progress at Hastings for two weeks concluded on Sunday, March 30. There was a general Communion on that morning, the Hibernian Society members attending in regalia. The sight was an impressive one. Throughout the mission the services were very largely attended, and it was gratifying to note that right through the services were attended by a very large percentage of men. At the evening services many outsiders came to hear the eloquent sermons preached by the two very able missionaries, and on many occasions the seating accommodation in the church proved absolutely inadequate. When the mission had been in progress for a little over a week over 4000 had received Holy Communion, and no doubt much lasting good will be the result of this mission which is said to be the most successful one held in this district for a very considerable period. A five days' mission was also given at the Olive church by Father Ainsworth, and was also considered highly successful.

The much-appreciated mission commenced at St. Mary's Church, Port Ahuriri, on Sunday last, and will continue for a week. All services are being well attended. It is being conducted by both Missioners, Fathers O'Leary and Ainsworth. It is also intended to give brief missions at the smaller districts of Maraekakaho, Paki-Paki, etc., at a later date.

When your spirit within you is excited or relaxed or depressed, when it loses its balance, when it is restless or wayward, when it is sick of what it has and hankers after what it has not, when your eye is solicited with evil and your mortal frame trembles under the shadow of the tempter,—what will bring you to yourselves, to peace and to health, but the cool breath of the Immaculate and the fragrance of the Rose of Sharon?—*Newman*.

When days are short and nights are long,
When south-east gales are going strong,
When trees uproot and rainclouds burst,
Wild winter then is at its worst.
Then is the time for colds and chills,
For sore throat, coughs, and kindred ills;
But such afflictions all endure
Who trust to Woods' Peppermint Cure.

**TRY
CEDERHOLM & SON**

**6-8 MANNERS STREET . WELLINGTON
FOR EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL**