

and writers of his day and ours and that he was capable of the dishonorable conduct of suppressing whatever might represent Catholics favorably. Miss Martineau had about the year 1854 some misgivings as to the "principles or want of principles" on which *Household Words* was conducted. The attitude taken up by Dickens on the woman question and on the Preston strike had aroused her suspicions already when an incident occurred which she narrates as follows:—

"In consequence of a request from Mr. Dickens that I would send him a tale for his Christmas number, I looked about for material in real life. . . . I selected a historical fact, and wrote the story which appears under the title of *The Missionary*, in my volume of sketches from life. I carried it with me to Mr. Wills' house, and he spoke in the strongest terms of approbation of it to me. . . . Some weeks afterwards my friends told me with renewed praises of the story that they mourned the impossibility of publishing it,—Mr. Wills said, because the public would say that Mr. Dickens was turning Catholic, and Mr. Wills and Mr. Dickens, *because they would never publish anything, fact or fiction, which gave a favorable view of anyone under the influence of the Catholic faith.* (Italics ours.) This appeared to me so incredible that Mr. Dickens gave me his ground three times over, with all possible distinctness, lest there should be any mistake; he would print nothing which could possibly dispose any mind whatever in favor of Romanism, even by the example of real good men. . . . I told him that his way of going to work was the very way of arousing fair minds in their defence; and that I had never before felt so disposed to make popularly known all historical facts in their favor. . . . Mr. Dickens hoped I should think better of it; and this proof of utter insensibility as to the nature of the difficulty, and his partner's hint the illiberality lay in not admitting that they were doing their duty in keeping Catholic good deeds out of sight of the public, showed me the case was hopeless. To a descendant of Huguenots, such total darkness of conscience on the morality of opinion is difficult to believe in when it is before one's very eyes."

Miss Martineau is right. The darkness of conscience, the total inability to act on a moral basis, the total hypocrisy of what is known to Britons alone as "British Fair Play" is a mystery. It proves the corruption of human nature by Protestantism and that standards of honor and decency are lower among so-called respectable Britons than among Hottentots and Kafirs. We have here in this very town of Dunedin a thinly veiled anonymous writer who has been detected in actual forgery of quotations from standard books on history which he "manipulated" with a view to blackening Catholics and Irishmen in the eyes of their neighbors. And that, dear readers, is British Fair Play as interpreted by Protestant guides of the people. God help us!

Ireland and America

There is talk nowadays of a grand entente between the people of the United States and the British Empire—between what is so wrongly called the sea-divided branches of the Anglo-Saxon family. Be it, however, remembered that so long as England continues to play the tyrant and the hypocrite towards Ireland there never can be unity between the States and the Empire. England never learns a lesson. Her coarse bard sang in his barrack-room manner that she had learned "a hell of a lesson" after being thrashed and defeated time and again by a little band of Boers who fought for their own land against British rapacity and despotism. But we have only to recall the records of the English (as distinct from the Colonial and Celtic) regiments in this war to know how little the lesson profited, and the bungling of the Lloyd George-Carson-Harmsworth gang was quite on a level with that of the men who sent Buller to his defeat, because they would not listen to the expert opinion of the only man who was capable of advising them. England is anxious for union with America. England has but to look back and learn why that union has not been realised before now, and why

it can never become a reality as long as a small nation is tortured and plundered in the interests of a horde of Orange ruffians. Envoy after envoy in the past has found his schemes checkmated and foiled by Irish influence at Washington. British diplomacy has struggled in vain for a footing on the land to which British tyranny drove the Irish exiles in sorrow and suffering. Shano Leslie tells us that:—

"The important convention agreed upon by Reverdy Johnson and Lord Clarendon was thrown out of the Senate. Bancroft in his *Life of Seward* clearly traces this to its source. 'The Fenian movement had increased the strong public sentiment in favor of waiting for an opportunity to retaliate. This was such an opportunity.' The play and counter-play of Irish sentiment in American politics became more and more marked. Each President had to deal with it. President Johnson was much at a loss what to do with the Fenian raiders of Canada. The Government could only let them down as gently as possible without offending England. President Grant was much embarrassed by the Irish mission to the American centenary under Parnell, who refused to be introduced by the British Ambassador. We find Alexander Sullivan interviewing President Arthur on Irish emigration, and causing diplomatic action thereby which Parnell characterised as 'the best slap England had from America since the war of 1812.' Sackville-West, whose every move was watched and foiled by an intensely active Fenian party, took refuge, during the time of the Phoenix Park executions on the Presidential yacht; and indirectly he owed his abrupt dismissal to the force of Irish opinion. An indiscreet letter from his pen at election-time gave the Irish Democrats a distinct breach of etiquette to work upon, and Cleveland handed Sackville West his papers. It was an act of unprecedented rigor, but the Irish-Americans were strong enough to insist. *The Times* laid it to Boyle O'Reilly's credit."

Again, inspired by Irish opinion, Cleveland defied Salisbury in the nineties. Michael Davitt was the man who brought about the defeat of the Anglo-American Treaty of 1897. And apropos of that incident we remember that Chamberlain interviewed Archbishop Ireland on its possibilities and that the answer he got was: "It cannot be, Mr. Chamberlain. Ireland—not the man, but the nation—blocks the way." Regarding Davitt's victory, Sheehy-Skeffington, whom England has since killed, wrote:—

"It was felt that the occasion was one in which no opportunity ought to be lost of showing England that she really had something substantial to gain from the freedom and friendship of Ireland, apart from the intrinsic value of having a contented nation at her side. It was time to teach the world that Irishmen in the United States were true to their motherland. So he crossed to the States, and in a brief campaign in the proper quarters secured that the Anglo-American Treaty which was expected to be the germ of a formal alliance should be rejected by the United States Senate through Irish influence in that body."

It was a magnificent punishment for the Coercion Acts. And it was by no means the last time that Ireland hit back hard through America when England's interests were at stake. The exiles of Erin who were driven forth from their own land by British cruelty and robbery did not forget, and they never will forget until the last farthing of the old debt is paid in full. Again and again Irish emigrants and their children have turned the scale against England in America. They have done so in the past, they are doing so to-day, and will continue to use their powerful influence against the Empire which persecuted them and plundered them for centuries. England never learns. England is now blinder than ever to her best interests. For the sake of the descendants of the "scum of the earth" who were planted on Irish land, she is still sowing the seeds of hatred for herself in the American Continent. And it is not hard to forecast that in future, should English politicians persist in the policy of Prussianism towards Ireland, a greater and more powerful force than ever will have to be reckoned with in the United States.

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