

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 1886
THE ENGLISH PARNELLMENT.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The *Fortnightly Review* publishes a political article, which is generally supposed to reflect the views of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain on the present crisis. The writer expresses great regret at the "timidity of the whigs," who seem to be afraid to face the land question. Their opposition, he says, foiled a former attempt to settle this great issue, and he urges them to reconsider the whole subject now. The writer says he thinks a few months will reveal discussions, which he maintains are now dormant, in the nationalist party, and intimates that a falling off in the American donations to the league treasury will bring Mr. Parnell to the point of conforming his demands to what Englishmen may justly grant. In conclusion, the writer says if England ever yields to the Irish demand for a native parliament she will have no guarantee against an eventual separation of Ireland from Great Britain.

It is curiously said that Parnell's tactics in the house of commons are revolutionary and destructive. Already he has by swinging his 86 members defeated the government, and in case a new ministry is formed the premier and his colleagues will be at the mercy of the Irish leader who can say whether the newly created cabinet shall exist or share the fate of its predecessor.

Parnell's tactics are common on this side of the water. Using the balance of power in a legislative assembly to carry a point is the commonest proceeding with us. It is one of the recognized forces of our politics. It is well to convince one's colleagues of the wisdom of a particular course. But if their favorable opinion cannot be gained, the right of taking by political power what is denied, is universally admitted and approved. This is the line of attack which Parnell is pursuing in the British parliament. By holding his little band well in hand he has been enabled to upset one ministry the first week that parliament convened.

This is an every-day sort of political work with us. Parnell cannot be said to be the inventor of it. On the contrary, he has simply availed himself of American methods. Ireland, under his leadership, is only doing what the Pacific states have done in conventions and congresses in connection with their peculiar questions. Groups of states from the beginning have acted in the same way whenever their interests required it. To the American mind there is no wrong in such a mode of proceeding. On the contrary, it is everywhere regarded as the assertion of an inalienable right.

But probably it is not so much the tactics of the Irish leader that are so objectionable to the English provincial journals as his ultimate purposes. Here again a divergence in national thought has to be noted. It is not, we believe, pretended that Parnell is aiming at the absolute independence of Ireland. What he wants is legislative independence merely. He is striving to gain for Ireland the same measure of self-government that has been conceded to the Australian colonies and the Canadian confederation. To us that is the most legitimate proceeding in the world. It is something that is going on in the United States all the time. Outlying sections are constantly demanding organized government. When they grow in population they agitate for the legislative independence which statehood confers. States not satisfied with their constitutions hold conventions and make them over again. With us the reasonable quality is wholly absent in these movements. We can no more perceive wrong in self-government or a lawful effort to gain it than we can in eating dinner or going to bed. But a different view is taken in England of such matters, but only with reference to Ireland. It has been the habit of England to govern the sister isle. It is easy to see how deeply imbedded in the national mind is the notion that it is for England to rule and Ireland to

obey. When there is a demand for independence for the latter, both parties in the dominant country coalesce. There is a general sentiment among all parties that they are losing something.

But it is just here that the great error of English politics can be detected. There can be no peace so long as it is held that one island has a perfect right to govern the other. There can be legislative independence for the smaller island without a disruption of the empire. When we concede the demand of Washington territory to set up as a state, we do not suppose that it is going straightway to declare its independence. On the contrary, we know that it will be only too anxious to stay in the Union, because of the great benefits which it derives from it. It is so with the Australian colonies and the Canadian confederation with reference to the mother country. It is not seen why a like centripetal political force should not be developed in the case of Ireland.

From Chicago comes the statement that an effort is being made to induce the Mormon church to purchase one of the largest islands in the Hawaiian group. It is reported that Dr. George A. Rawson, formerly of that city, was sent to Salt Lake to confer with the officials there toward the purchase of an island of one million acres owned by James Campbell. He says he was not able to consult with the Mormon church officials when at Salt Lake, for various reasons, but expects to be able to do so soon and expects to be able to conduct successful negotiations. He says the chief drawback will be the laws of the kingdom, as they now exist, forbidding polygamy.

The Philadelphia *Record* publishes a list of the persons who were reported to the police as missing last year, and the number reached 600. Among those who "mysteriously disappeared" were fifty-six girls between the age of twelve and twenty-one, and seventy-four boys, aged from twelve to twenty, the others being adults. What a field for dark imaginations or gloomy speculation the facts provide!

The construction force on the California & Oregon is within two miles of Portuguese Flat, and the construction train will soon be running to that point, which will be made the temporary headquarters. The telegraph line has already been stretched to the Flat. No more Chinese are being engaged to work on the road, the newcomers among the laboring force all being whith men.

At Egyptian feasts a coffin used to be put at the head of the table. It was to suggest the future to the guests. A California stage at Cloverdale last Monday, had as passengers a sheriff and four convicts sentenced to San Quentin, and a highwayman held it up in the mountains for robbery. When he examined the passenger list, he apologized and retired into the brush.

SENATOR JONES has a contract for milling the ore above the 1,500-foot level of the Con. California and Virginia mine at Virginia City, Nevada, at \$6 a ton. It is reported that by a concentrating device about to be introduced the cost of the work can be reduced to 50 cents a ton, giving the senator a net income of \$1,000 a day.

The New York press regardless of party are commenting adversely on Secretary Lamar and Attorney-General Garland, and suggest to President Cleveland that they should withdraw from the cabinet because of connection with telephone stock deals. The president will probably write another letter to Mrs. Beecher or Puck.

THE president refuses to give any reasons to the senate for suspensions or nominations. The question now arises, will they confirm.

THE senate committee on public lands is about to report a bill favorably to the senate repealing all laws providing for pre-emption of public lands and the laws allowing entries for timber culture. The law, if it pass, will take effect on the 1st of next July.

GREECE resolutely refuses to disarm. It is in order now to send a policeman to take her gun away.

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