

The Irish Troubles.

In dealing with the Irish agitation, the Gladstone Cabinet made up its mind to pass two measures; one to suppress the Irish disorders, the other to relieve the Irish tenants from the oppressions of their landlords.

The first object they proposed to accomplish by the "Coercion Bill," the second, by the "Land Bill."

The Coercion Bill was passed first. By its provisions, the British authorities were given power to arrest any person in Ireland, on suspicion of breaking the law, or of inciting others to do so, and to keep that person in prison, without a trial for eighteen months.

Then the Land Bill was introduced, which provided that the tenants should be secured from the arbitrary "eviction," or turning out, of the landlords. This measure is still being debated in Parliament.

Meanwhile, the disturbances in Ireland have not only continued, but have increased. Resistance to the officers of the law, and to the military sent to aid them, occurs daily. Lives are lost almost every day in affrays between these and the Irish mobs. Ireland is in a state of confusion, of anarchy, and almost of open and general revolt.

Thus the Coercion Bill, is seen to have failed of its object, which was to preserve order and tranquility in Ireland till the Land Bill could bring relief to the oppressed tenantry. The immediate cause, indeed, of the increased troubles is the Land Bill itself. The landlords, finding that as soon as that measure becomes a law, their power to evict their tenants will be greatly restricted—if it is not taken away altogether—have hastened to turn their tenants out in large numbers, while they can still do so.

Their purpose is to clear the estates of the tenants altogether, so that, when the Land Bill becomes a law, they can rent their lands again on their own terms.

These sudden and wholesale evictions on the part of the landlords have created widespread hardship and misery, and have roused the people to a desperate resistance. In many parts of the country, mobs have assembled to resist the evictions, and to keep the tenants in their holdings in spite of the landlords. Then the landlords have appealed to the authorities to aid them in enforcing their legal right.

The attempt was made to carry out the evictions by the force of constables. But the mobs proved too strong for them. In many places the constables were stoned out of the villages and fields.

Then resort was had to Her Majesty's regiments. The Coldstream Guards, the "crack" corps of the British army, were sent over, and other troops followed, until there are now thirty thousand redcoats on the Irish soil.

Even with this force, it is often found difficult, and in some places impossible, to carry out the evictions; for the British officers hesitate to order their men to fire on the people, and thus bring about a bloody catastrophe.

Meanwhile, the Land Bill is as yet far from becoming a law; and that relief to the tenant still seems distant. It is still in the House of Commons; and there are reasons to believe that when it reaches the House of Lords, that body will reject it.

While Mr. Gladstone has shown a sincere anxiety to do right by the Irish, and relieve them of the landlord oppression under which they have languished for centuries, it seems as if his Coercion Bill was a serious mistake; for it embittered the Irish against his Cabinet, and has made them suspicious of the Land Bill itself; while at the same time it has utterly failed to suppress the disturbances at which it was aimed.—*Companion.*

A Famous Woman.

One night last week we had a new experience. We heard a woman "speak in public on the stage," and there were probably 500 persons present to whom the experience was as new as to us. The statement will not be surprising to those who reflect that we were in a Southern city, that we were born and reared in the South, and that when we have traveled North we always could easily find greater attractions than female lecturers or preachers.

Miss Frances Willard had come to Charleston—president of the "Woman's National Temperance Union." Partly through curiosity, partly to show our interest in the great object she and her sisters throughout the land are seeking, we went to hear Miss Willard. We listened to her one hour, with a reserve of patience in her favor which she would hardly have exhausted if she had continued for sixty minutes longer; a remark we could not make, under similar circumstances, concerning more than half a dozen men of all whom we have heard speak.

We came away thoroughly persuaded that it is not necessarily an unwomanly thing for a woman to be a public speaker. Miss Willard's deportment was in the truest sense and in the highest degree womanly. Standing by the table on the low platform in front of the pulpit, clad in a simple, tasteful black suit and still wearing her bonnet, pleading in soft, sweet tones—a voice that had tears in it—no ranting, no sky-rocketing, no posturing, not even the lifting of an arm (except the occasional unconscious movement of the hand and forearm), she seemed the own sister of every man among us, and the idea of impropriety in her so appearing and speaking before us could not have been more distant if she had been talking to each one of us alone in a drawing-room.

From a literary point of view the address was a gem. It had not proceeded two minutes before you were aware that a mind of very high order was claiming your attention, and at every step you found fresh occasions to admire the elegant culture which all the faculties appeared to have received. There was not a weak sentence from beginning to end, there was not a tawdry figure, there was not a superfluous word. There were no "anecdotes," none of the "incidents," humorous or pathetic, which constitute the chief stock in trade of most temperance lecturers, and no padding, that too common artifice of incapable, or lazy, or hasty speakers and writers. Information was given, objections were weighed, considerations favorable were urged, appeals were made, reason and imagination, judgment, taste, and memory all were in full exercise, and the hearer sat entranced, not fascinated, but with a sense of deep personal concern in the matter about which that quiet, elegant, sisterly woman was talking.

Miss Willard spoke several times in Charleston, and always to crowded houses. She was heard with utmost respect, perhaps we might say with reverence, and we doubt not with lasting benefit to many among us, both men and women. It is announced that she will visit other parts of the State. May the Lord, whom she loves and so faithfully presents as the only strength of the weak and deliverer of the fallen, be with her everywhere.

"Are you, then, Mr. Editor, in favor of women speaking in public meetings?"

We are in favor of some women speaking in some public meetings.

"But, sir, if a beginning is made in that direction, what will be the end? If all women were like Miss Willard, it might not be so bad; but don't you know that not one in a hundred could deliver a public speech without making herself ridiculous?"

We cannot say that we know that; but we do know that ninety-nine in every hundred men who speak in public would better be at something else. If there are not many Miss Willards, neither is there many Edward Everetts, or Wendell Phillipses, or Richard Fullers, or John A. Broadbents.

"Well, Mr. Editor, leaving all that aside, does not Scripture plainly teach that women must not—"

Beg your pardon, brother, we never did believe that.—*The (S. C.) Baptist Courier.*

Legend of the Forget-me-not.

When the flowers so beautiful,
The Father gave a name,
Back came one little blue-eyed one—
All tremblingly it came,
And standing at the Father's feet
And gazing in his face,
It said with meek and timid mien,
Yet with a quiet grace,
"Dear God, the name thou gavest me
Alas! I have forgot."
The Father kindly looked on her
And said "Forget-me-not!"

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MISCELLANEOUS.



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