

# QUEEN VICTORIA AND IRELAND

## Reminiscences of Three Previous Visits— 1849, 1853 and 1861.

### Demonstrative Enthusiasm of the People. The Queen on the Beauty of Irish Women. Ire- land During Her Majesty's Reign.

(OTTAWA JOURNAL.)

It has often been the subject of adverse comment, that Queen Victoria's visits to Ireland have been "few and far between." Her visits to Scotland have been frequent, if I remember rightly, annual, and systematic, and in the "land o' cakes and John O' Groats," she has a royal residence. It certainly cannot be charged against Her Majesty that personal dislike of Ireland, of the Irish people or any section of them, has had anything to do with the fact that during the nearly sixty-three years of her eventful and benignant reign, on only three occasions has she set foot on Irish soil, namely:—

- 1, in August, 1849,
- 2, in August, 1853.
- And 3, in August, 1861.

The true reason, I am inclined to think, has been political—that is to say, the representations of her advisers from time to time have influenced her, and she, as in constitutional matters, has acted upon their advice. But it has been a

#### MISTAKEN POLICY,

the folly of which, is freely acknowledged at the present time. I do not contend that even an annual visit to Ireland would have had the effect of putting an end to agitation in favor of regulating the relations between landlord and tenant, or to the movement in favor of what has come to be popularly known as Home Rule—in other words, of substituting the federal system, which we have in Canada, for that at present in operation, a Legislative Union. The Legislative Union commenced its existence in January, 1801. Scotland had become the legislative partner of England in May, 1707, during the reign of Queen Anne. The Irish agitations in question would have gone on just the same whether the Queen visited, and for a time, resided in, Ireland or not; and the Nationalist party, in Parliament; and out of it, have proclaimed, in language free from ambiguity, that the fact of Her Majesty receiving a hearty and loyal welcome in their country, next month, which is generally anticipated, must not be regarded, as in any degree an abandonment of the constitutional movement in favor of substituting the one system for another.

#### MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, M. P.

In an interesting article in the London Daily Mail, thus sets forth the attitude of the party:

"But let me adjure the people of England and especially those who are Unionists, not to mar the grace or prejudice the good effects of Her Majesty's visit by any misunderstanding of it, or any attempt to turn it to political capital. To give anything but a hospitable respectful and generous reception to a woman, and a Queen would be unworthy of the high traditions of Ireland for courtesy, hospitality, reverence to womanhood; and Irishmen would not dream of taking up any other attitude. But these are the feelings of a generous people towards a woman and a sovereign; and not the outcome of any charge in political opinions or national aspirations. Any attempt to misrepresent the visit of the Queen or the attitude of the Irish people would be sure to do harm. Once before in our generation, a royal visit, which might have been productive of much good, turned out to be almost evil by the mistaken attempts to turn the visit to political purposes, and a similar attempt now would produce similar results. And to no one would such conduct be more unjust than to Her Majesty herself. The throne owes much of its strength and its glory to the fact that it stands high, enduring, and calm, above the raging strife and transient fortunes of party warfare. The Irish people have not made the mistake of regarding the Queen as an enemy of their aspirations; and it would be cruel to place her, or rather, to seem to place her, in that position. To them as to us in England, she ought to be the common ruler of all her peoples; of all races, of all creeds, of all classes, of all convictions."

#### THE QUEEN'S ACTION.

But aside from this question, the de-

termination of Her Majesty at the advanced age of nearly eighty-one, and physically unable to walk with freedom, is evidence of the fact that she, at any rate, "Knows the seasons how to take." While the praises of her Irish soldiers were being universally sung, she, in a happy moment, ordered that the national flower, the Shamrock, should decorate Irish uniforms, of all ranks, on St. Patrick's Day, followed by the announcement of an intended visit to the country, to extend over a period of three weeks. The coming event is looked forward to with general interest. That Her Majesty will be loyally and enthusiastically received, notwithstanding the action of certain municipal bodies, and the adverse declarations of gentlemen of the calibre of Mr. Edward McHugh, M. P., who took a hand in the "affair" at Hotel Cecil, London, on Tuesday night, may safely be predicted.

#### THE QUEEN ON IRISH WOMEN,

Her Majesty the Queen's first visit to Ireland, was in August, 1849. She landed at the cove of Cork (afterwards called Queenstown, in honor of her royal visit), and met with a right loyal reception. Irish women are proverbially good looking, but what is better still, strong physically, and generally healthy. Pale faces and sallow complexions are rarely seen, in town and country. In the wilds of Donegal, and elsewhere, I have seen girls brought up in the humble mud cottage, as fine specimens of the "female form divine" as could be met anywhere. On her arrival in Cork Her Majesty was struck with the appearance of Irish women. Writing afterwards, describing her reception, she said: "The beauty of the women is very remarkable, and struck us much. And such beautiful dark eyes and hair, and such fine teeth. Almost every third woman we saw was pretty, and some of them remarkably so."

#### AT KINGSTOWN.

The royal yacht called at Waterford on the way to Dublin. An eye-witness on the arrival of the Royal party, which besides Her Majesty included the Royal Consort, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal, afterwards Empress of Germany, thus describes the scene on the occasion of the arrival at Kingstown:

"It was a sight never to be forgotten, a sound to be remembered for ever. Ladies threw aside the old formula of waving a white pocket-handkerchief, and cheered for their lives, while the men, pressing in so closely as to throng to the very edge of the pavilion, waved whatever came first to hand—hat, stick, wand, or coat (for the day was very hot), and rent the air with shouts of joy, which never ceased in energy till their beloved sovereign was far out of sight." And then as the royal train started for Dublin, we are told that as the Queen again bowed her acknowledgments she was "hailed with one universal and tremendous cheer." Of her

#### RECEPTION IN DUBLIN.

the Queen herself afterwards wrote: "It was a wonderful and striking scene. Such masses of human beings, so enthusiastic, so excited, yet such perfect order maintained. Then the number of troops, the different bands placed at certain distances, the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, the bursts of welcome which rent the air, all made it a never-to-be-forgotten scene, when one reflected how lately the country had

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CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS.  
Dalhousie.

I cured a horse badly torn by a pitch fork, with MINARD'S LINIMENT.  
EDWARD LINLIFF.  
St. Peter's, C. B.

I cured a horse of a bad swelling with MINARD'S LINIMENT.  
THOMAS W. PAYNE.  
Bathurst, N. B.



BOER OUTPOSTS.

Boston Globe

been in open revolt and under martial law."

#### AT BELFAST.

The royal party proceeded from Dublin to Belfast, where the enthusiasm was uncontrollable. The streets, as in Dublin and Cork, were magnificently decorated, and were densely crowded by many thousands of loyal citizens and visitors from all parts of Ulster. The visit was confined to a single day. It is understood that Belfast will be included in the programme of the approaching visit in April. Belfast is a wonderfully progressive city. Its population is now calculated to be over 300,000, exceeding that of Dublin. It is the seat of the great linen industry, and possesses one of the largest ship-building establishments in the world—that of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, the constructors of the White Star and other lines of ocean steamships. As an educational centre it stands high. It possesses Queen's College, one of the three colleges of the Royal University of Ireland, formerly Queen's University, a Presbyterian Theological College, a Methodist College, a Roman Catholic diocesan college, and besides a number of establishments founded by private benefactors. A former Lord Chancellor of England, Lord Cairns, at one time represented Belfast in the House of Commons. He was a native of Ulster. The present Lord Chief Justice, who was born in Newry, County Down, lived, if I remember rightly, a short time in Belfast; but on this point I am not certain. Lord Kelvin, the distinguished scientist, was born in Belfast in 1824, and the late Lord O'Hagan, first Roman Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland since the Revolution of 1688, was a native of that city. That Belfast will give Her Majesty a magnificent reception may be taken for granted.

#### THE QUEEN'S SECOND VISIT.

Her Majesty's second visit to Ireland was in August, 1853. She was accompanied by Prince Albert (the Royal Consort), the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred, her second son who was created Duke of Edinburgh, and for many years served in the Royal navy. He is now Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The exhibition of Irish industry was one of the features of the second royal visit to Ireland, which was confined to Dublin and its neighborhood.

#### THE THIRD VISIT.

On the occasion of her third visit to the "Green Isle," August 1861, Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince Consort (who died in the following December), the Princess Alice (her second daughter, afterwards the Grande Duchess of Hesse, who died in December 1878); her third daughter, the Princess Helena (afterwards Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein), and Prince Arthur, her third son, now Duke of Connaught, and at present commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland. The royal party proceeded direct from Holyhead to Kingstown, thence by rail, a few miles, to Dublin. At that time the Prince of Wales was performing military duty at the Curragh Camp, as a Captain in the Grenadier Guards. In honor of the royal visit a review of the troops

was held at the Curragh. The party subsequently visited the enchanting Lakes of Killarney. Of the enthusiasm of the peasantry one writer has said: "The enthusiastic cheers of these people, once so disloyal and poverty-stricken, so broken down by famine and disease, made the mountains around ring again, and proved beyond dispute that whatever may be the feelings towards England, their love and admiration of their Queen are large and heart seated." Again, "As the royal barges moved along the shores these loyal but injudicious subjects of Her Majesty set up such continuous shrieks of welcome that the deer terrified, and, bursting through the ring of drivers, fled back into the depths." The North was not visited on this occasion.

#### IRISH EVENTS OF THE REIGN.

Events in Ireland during the reign of Queen Victoria have not all been of a favorable nature. A partial summary of them includes, failures of the potato crops, and consequent suffering of disease; wholesale emigration; the

O'Connell and other state trials; the Smith-O'Brien "Cabbage garden" rising and suppression; tenant right agitations in Ulster; wholesale evictions, the commencement and development of the Fenian movement, arrests, prosecutions and imprisonments; the Phoenix Park tragedy; land law reform agitations; unfortunate party riots, at too frequent intervals, in the north; birth, growth and suppression of the Land League, and the arrest and imprisonment of many prominent members; the "plan of campaign" movement; "Coercive" measures to meet exceptional conditions, the birth of the Home Rule movement, under the parliamentary leadership of Mr. Isaac Butt, Q. C., who was succeeded in turn by the late Mr. William Shaw, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. John Dillon, and now by Mr. John Redmond; the party split over the Parnell leadership question, which followed the O'Shea divorce proceedings and the re-union recently affected. Irish legislation of the reign has in the main been in the direction of removing unquestionable

grievances, especially in regard to land matters. The Irish branch of the United Church of England and Ireland was disestablished and disendowed by an act of Parliament, introduced by Mr. Gladstone in response to the demand of the majority. The Irish National Education Board was appointed in 1845. By act of Parliament, Queen's University (now the Royal University), was established in 1850, with colleges at Belfast, Galway and Cork. A year later the unchartered Catholic University came into existence. Largely through the

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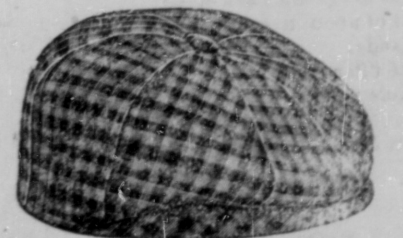
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