

The Sentinel.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3.

IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY.

Those who have read the record of England's oppression of Ireland will doubtless surmise that if the British lion and the Russian bear at last engage in a life and death struggle, Ireland will take advantage of her opportunity and seek to regain her nationality. Ireland's inveterate hate of England has grown in intensity as the years have increased since the monstrous crime of her subjugation was perpetrated, and wherever on the green earth a true Irish heart beats England has a foe. We hear much of England's preparations for war; of her great wealth and her great power. No one doubts England's pluck, but it is quite possible that she is just now inviting a series of catastrophes which in the end may exhaust her wealth and deprive her of the commanding position she has hitherto occupied in the affairs of the world. Her purpose in antagonizing Russia is, it is claimed, to save her India possessions, but just at this point the question is asked: Is not England placing her Asiatic empire in serious jeopardy? It is now well understood that England, by hesitating when Turkey needed her help, has completely estranged Mohammedans throughout the world, and the report that Russia and Turkey have formed an alliance gives importance to the statement. British India contains a Mohammedan population of at least 50,000,000 who are not likely in case of revolt, which is always dreaded, to assist British troops. Quite recently there have been evidences of restlessness on the part of the native chiefs, and so apprehensive have the authorities become that the native press has been suppressed or placed under the most rigid surveillance. These things indicate trouble in India, and should England at last become engaged with Russia the situation in India may at once assume a seriousness that will endanger her power. Russia will not be slow to help on the complications, and aided by the sultan they would suddenly grow into an importance which it would be difficult to estimate. Just now England is mistress of the ocean, having larger naval and merchant fleets than any other country. But should a war with Russia ensue, the oceans and seas of the world would swarm with ships fitted out by Russia that would everywhere prey upon her commerce, and in a comparatively brief period cripple it to an extent that would endanger the lives of the people of England. England can not feed herself; she is dependent upon the food producing countries of the world. To say that her merchant marine could not be crippled is to defy the facts of recent history. A half dozen confederate cruisers almost annihilated the merchant marine of the United States, and similar disasters may overtake England. Thousands of Irishmen, at home and in all lands, are watching their opportunity to give England trouble, and the indications are that they are near at hand.

CHURCHES AND CHURCH DEBTS.

The extravagance that bloomed and blossomed during the past year exceeded its predecessors in the church corporations, and in the wild infatuation of the hour, when it was believed that money would always be as plentiful as it was then, contracts were made for the erection of churches, but since past and present people are so severely straitened for a man's pittance means have been resorted to for the purpose of meeting the debts thus contracted. The local market has been taxed for sensational purposes, just as a lyceum committee works hard to secure the money for the benefit of the poor. England and Ireland have had drafts made upon them to supply the demand. It has been, as it were, at high pressure with a deacon on the safety valve taking in the dollars. Fairs, tandem, and amateur exhibitions and the like are resorted to, and in fact no stone left unturned or effort untried to relieve the shoulders of the congregation of the saddle of debt that is so galling to them. In the meantime the old men are mortifying as the confession must be, too much of the religion of to-day does not depend so much upon the Gospel itself as the popularity of the man who preaches it. The church morgan has swept away the simple faith of the fathers and put something in its place that is more of fashion than of faith. —New York Express.

We reproduce the above, not for the purpose of antagonizing the Gospel, but rather to place before our readers current comment upon the way churches are drifting. The fact must be regarded by thinking Christians as serious when such notices, resting upon indubitable testimony, find their way into the secular press. The case to which the Express particularly refers is that of St. Ann's church, on the heights, Brooklyn, which has incurred a debt of \$183,000, and which it has not been able after the most strenuous efforts to raise but \$40,000 with which to pay it. The demand at St. Ann's was fine architecture, fine music, fine carpets, fine pews, elegant frescoes, beautiful windows, splendid surroundings, everything aristocratic, and with all, gilt-edged sermons—a costly Gospel. These things the good people of St. Ann's obtained, and with them mortgages that extended from the foundations to the gilt cross on the steeple, and covering all of the grand display inside and out. And now the worshipers are burdened with debt and interest, and it is quite possible that the costly structure will be sold for the balance due. Now, then, what is the lesson these grand and magnificent piles teach with an emphasis and a grim eloquence that command attention. Are the churches for the poor, those who need along life's weary pilgrimage the consolations of Christ's teachings? Are they the pious palaces the Christian monuments of love, where the people of plain costumes resort to feed upon the bread of life? Are they places to which the lame, the halt, and the blind plot their weary way to hear again and again of that wonderful man who when on earth sought them out to heal them and to teach them? Oh yes; some one may say in all of those grand architectural displays there are pauper benches within range of the voice of the silver tongued orators who occupy pulpits at princely salaries, who dress in linen and broadcloth, and who know vastly less of poverty and the poor than did He who declared that He had not where to lay His head, and was more destitute than the foxes and the birds. It is possible that the lowly Nazarene somewhere directed His disciples and apostles to build costly churches and resort to all manner of kick shows to pay for them and keep the Gospel machinery in motion. If so, let the declaration be made. We have failed to find it. We do

know, however, that His great soul was forever in sympathy with the poor. By the roadside, by the pools, by the sea, along all the highways of the Holy Land, on the mountain side or in desert places, He was always teaching His disciples the great lesson of caring for the poor; and when the disciples of John hesitated for some crowning declaration that Jesus was the Messiah, it was found in the God-like expression that "The poor have the Gospel preached to them." It is a pretty well established fact that costly church buildings do not help on the spread of Christ's Gospel, whatever else they may accomplish. Simplicity is done away with when wealth demands elaborate decorations. San bonnets, calico and jeans do not mingle well with silks and broadcloth. Dollar broughams seldom press the elegant carpets that cover the aisles of fashionable churches. That sort of religion is too costly even in good times, but when wants sit enthroned in the cottage homes of the poor it can not be indulged in at all. Then it seeks the quiet nooks, does its own preaching, and the costly churches are left to get along the best way they can, which, too often, is poor enough. The time for fully arriving the church question has fully arrived. A great reformer is wanted. The voice of one crying in the wilderness of steeples, "build cheap churches and give the poor a chance for heaven," should be heard.

STATE NEWS.

Elkhart has one case of small pox. Delphi is to have a lodge of knights of Pythias.

The Universalists at Bluffton are building a new church.

There are several cases of diphtheria at Cambridge City.

The new band at Cambridge City is blowing itself into fame.

Charleston is to have a breach of promise suit with damages placed at \$10,000.

Two hundred of the new silver dollars were paid out by one of the Goshen banks for greenbacks last week.

The wheat is growing finely. It is feared it is growing too fast, and that there will be more straw than grain at harvest.

It is a penitentiary offense to mutilate silver coin. Persons who make a practice of boring holes through, or otherwise marking coins, had better keep their eyes open.

From all accounts given by correspondents and through other sources, the prospects for wheat and all kinds of fruit are unpremeditated in the history of Montgomery county.

Lagrange Register: Lagrange for months has had the most wretched, woe-begone and mud-conditioned road through its principal street that could be found in any other village of its size in the state. And yet the town has a marshal in office all the time.

The ministerial association of the Lafayette and Battle Ground districts of the Northwest Indiana conference of the M. E. church, will meet at Attica, April 8. Opening sermon by Rev. A. A. Gee, on Monday evening April 8.

Porter County Vidette: The blue ribbon movement is still progressing. Over 1,000 have signed the pledge, and so far we learn of only two or three who have broken it. Of those who have signed it was said that between 200 and 300 were actually in the ranks of the intemperate.

Lafayette Courier: Two saloon keepers signed the Murphy pledge at one of Hughes and Ward's meetings and quit the business. Another said in public that his Saturday's sales had been cut down from \$70 to \$10, and yet these young men do not wage war on the saloon keepers directly. All they ask is that men quit drinking.

Lebanon Patriot: The growing wheat presents an encouraging appearance, and it is reported from every quarter to be in a fine condition. Close observers say the acreage in Boone county this year is nearly one-half greater than last year, and it is predicted that more bushels of good grain will be marketed the coming season than there has been for ten years past.

Wayne County Democrat: Some think that the freeze on Sunday night injured the fruit, but several old farmers inform us that but little damage has been done. Peach buds were very dry, and it is believed that they escaped uninjured. Uncle Billy Willard said it "50 the buds froze solid in the 'cups,' but were uninjured, and he had a large crop than any year since. He also says if the bloom puts forth in the light of the moon they will not be injured by the weather.

MR. TILDEN'S INCOME TAX.

What Has Been Decided.

[New York Sun.]

We understand the case with Mr. Tilden's income tax, concerning which a decision has just been rendered by Judge Blatchford, to that at the time the tax was payable he was heavily engaged in speculative operations which had not yet come to any result, so that it was impossible for him to tell at the time what his income for the year had really been, or whether it might not turn out to be less than nothing. In this situation he left the amount of the tax to be fixed by the assessors and paid it accordingly, with the fine which the law imposed for the failure of the citizen to make a return of his income. In so doing Mr. Tilden simply followed the course which was pursued by thousands of other men who regarded any official inquiry into their business affairs with aversion, and adopted the alternative which the law itself provided.

Now, however, Mr. Tilden having been elected president by the democratic voters of the country, he has been singled out for prosecution by republican officials; and the case having been brought before Judge Blatchford, he decides that the determination of the tax by the assessor and the imposition of the fine for failure to make a return do not end the matter; so that it shall appear now or at any future time that in any year the assessors estimated a man's income at less than it really was, the government can still sue for the difference and compel payment; and we are bound to assume that this is a correct exposition of the provisions of the statute.

What further course Mr. Tilden means to take in the matter will appear in due time. We suppose it is probable that he will appear, and that the question will be carried to the supreme court. We wish, however, the bar demurred had been broader, and that it had put at issue the greater question of the constitutionality of the law imposing the income tax. We are perfectly convinced that whenever this question is properly argued before the supreme court the law will be pronounced unconstitutional.

Jacksonville (Fla.) Sun: A colored man living in the vicinity of Lane's Branch, Florida, has made upon ordinary land of that section, with two plows, nearly 13 bales of sea-island cotton, which will net him at least \$1,000, besides 240 bushels of corn, which, at 80 cents per bushel, is equivalent to \$1,920. His potato, cane and pea crop will defray the expense of cultivation, expenses of his family for the past and coming year, and a family surplus. The secret of his success is that he applied himself to his farm, let political meetings alone and attended to his own business.

We have failed to find it. We do

SENATOR VOORHEES.

He Speaks at Terre Haute Friday Evening to an Immense Audience.

His Utterances Command Attention and Elicit Applause.

[Terre Haute Express.]

Dowling hall was filled to its utmost capacity last evening on the occasion of Senator Voorhees' speech there. Many were unable to gain admission. Mr. Voorhees was introduced by Hon. C. F. McNutt, and spoke over an hour. His address was heard by the audience with attention and applause. He said:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I left Washington after an absence there of nearly five months. I had no expectation of making a speech, nor shall I dignify the remarks which I shall make this evening with the name of a speech. But feel that it is well under all circumstances to speak of the policy of the party, and that people have a right to know what the people desire on these questions. I believe it is considered a movement of the people under the policy of the democratic party.

The upper house sits at the present time in the public mind is the distressed condition of the country. It has been in my mind constantly; it is heard on all sides, and I have discussed it somewhat in my place in congress, a private place, and speak of the responsibility of parties and to consider the attitude of the parties at present.

I stand to night, as I have stood for years, for the democratic party, and in saying that, I speak with utter frankness, and without fear of any other party. I have lived to that time when I appreciate, my friends, that the motives of all parties are patriotic. The American people, whether they are known by name or not, are patriotic. They are willing to do their duty, and are willing to pay their debts, and are willing to live.

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