

**THE LIFE OF CHARLES
STEWART PARNELL, WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS
ANCESTRY**

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The Life of Charles Stewart Parnell, with an Account of His Ancestry by Thomas Sherlock

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Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P.

THE LIFE
OF
CHARLES STEWART PARNELL,
WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS ANCESTRY.

BY THOMAS SHERLOCK.

WITH
AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING MOST INTERESTING DETAILS OF C. S. PARNELL'S
EARLY LIFE, AND OF THE PARNELL, STEWART,
AND TUDOR FAMILIES.

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THE LIFE
OF
CHARLES STEWART PARNELL, M.P.

BEFORE sketching the career of Mr. Parnell from his birth to the present hour, we deem it proper to give some account of the sources whence he sprang. It will be found that on the maternal as well as on the paternal side he had a distinguished ancestry; the former being as noted for honest, hearty hate of English oppression and love of domination as the latter for sincere and practical Irish patriotism.

The story we have to tell must naturally possess a powerful interest for the Irish people; but even if Charles Stewart Parnell were not so endeared to them as he is, the record would have intrinsically a strong attraction for every reader, for it deals with a number of people eminent or illustrious in their day, some of whom played leading parts on the world's great stage, and some, again, about whose lives there is all the brilliancy of romance. In this latter category stands the Irish-American Admiral Stewart, whose daring and successful exploits on the ocean, in especial against the British in the war of 1812, were extraordinary, and whose splendid

career will be traced with considerable fulness of detail in a subsequent paper. Another of Mr. Parnell's maternal ancestors, Judge Tudor, took a stern part against the British in the American war of independence; so that we have the interesting fact that the gallant member for Meath has in his veins the blood of men who fought against England in the two wars between that country and the United States. We may add here that the facts we shall set down will be drawn from authentic sources, many of which are not generally available.

Beginning with the Parnells, we must say at the outset that they were originally an English family, settled for many centuries in the neighborhood of Congleton in Cheshire. Whatever English prejudices concerning Ireland they may have had at first they soon lost; the English sympathies they must have brought with them in the beginning grew more and more modified as generation after generation intermarried in Ireland, until at length the family obtained renown for its Irish patriotism.

Strange it is, but true, that many of our most honored patriots of the past—the men whose memory the Irish people will ever cherish and reverence—sprang originally from the alien race. They saw the great mass of the people ground into powder, and at the same time cut off from their natural leaders by the infamous penal laws;

and with generous hearts aflame with indignation they sprang to the front, and thought, wrote, spoke, fought, and died in the effort to right Ireland's wrongs. So we had Tones and Emmets, Sheareses and Fitzgeralds, leading the people, when O'Briens and MacCarthys, Kavanaghs and O'Neills were hidden away in enforced obscurity. Times have changed since then, and numbers of men of the old race have taken and are taking the part that befits them in the front rank of our political life; but deep down in Ireland's grateful heart—rooted, fixed, immovable—is the passionate recollection of services rendered and sacrifices made in her cause by so many whose ancestors of a few generations before were as English as the towers of Windsor Castle. Never again will it be possible to create disunion, as in former days, between "the old Irish" and "the new Irish." The unalterable creed of our people is the creed so well preached by Thomas Davis:—

"Yet start not, Irish-born man—
If you're to Ireland true,
We heed not blood, nor creed, nor clan—
We have no curse for you.

"And oh! it were a gallant deed
To show before mankind
How every race and every creed
Might be by love combined—
Might be combined, yet not forget
The fountains whence they rose
As filled by many a rivulet
The stately Shannon flows."

The founder of the Parnell family in Ireland was one Thomas, who came over from Cheshire about the time of the restoration of the Stuart dynasty to the British throne in the person of Charles the Second.

Thomas Parnell bought an estate in the Queen's County, and so came by it in an honest way than three-fourths of the ancestors of the present landed proprietors of Ireland. He thrived on this estate; his affairs prospered; and he gave an excellent education to his two sons, John and Thomas, whom he respectively devoted to law and the Church.

John, the younger, who finally came into the family estates, both in Ireland and England, was a man of ability and prominence in his day. He attained a seat in the Court of Queen's Bench, and died, leaving behind him accumulated property.

The parson was also a man of much ability, and enjoyed, not only in his own day, but even up to a generation ago, considerable renown as a poet. He was also a scholar and a wit. He was born in Dublin in 1669, and educated at Trinity College, where he took his degree of M. A. in 1700. Three years afterwards he was ordained; and in 1705 he received the appointment of Archdeacon of Clogher. But his predilections leaned more towards literary work than to ministerial duties, and he preferred to mingle with Swift and Addison, Steele, Congreve, and Pope, in the warm