### HON. EDWARD BLAKE.

#### An English Opinion of the Gifted Irish Canadian.

The London Daily News, in its series of articles on " Men of the New Parliament," has this to say of Hon. Edward Blake: Mr. Blake and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji have two things in common. Both have been remarkably successful in Parliament. Both are subjects of the Queen who, before presenting themselves to constituencies in the United Kingdom, held high positions in distant parts of her Majesty's dominions Mr. Naoroji was Prime Minister of Baroda. Mr. Blake was President of the Canadian Privy Council and leader of the Liberal party in the Dominion. Otherwise there is little or no resemblance between the two men. Mr. Blake had to contend against the great disadvantages of his Canadian fame, which pitched the expectation of the House of Commons very high, and familiarity with an audience very different from that which he addressed at Westmins-

It is quite as creditable to his tact as to his ability that he should from the first have completely surmounted both these obstacles. His speech in reply to Mr. Chamberlam on the first reading of the Home Rule Bill was a real masterpiece. Mr. Chamberlain is not, indeed, so difficult to answer as some debaters inferior to him in strongth and clearness. He never quite knows his subject, and usually makes some mistake big enough to furnish an adversary with valuable material. But on this occasion he surpassed himself, and delivered what was, and is, in the general opinion, the best of his Parliamentary speeches. Mr. Blake, who had taken copious notes, followed at once and dissected his arguments with consummate skill. Old Parliamentary hands, not prepossessed in Mr. Blake's favor, were heard to declare that they had never known anything better done.

Mr. Blake's fluency is, indeed, marvellous. It is un-English, and regarded with some suspicion by good patriots on that account. Hesitation in the House of Commons is so frequent, and grammar so rare that Mr. Blake seems a portent and a wonder. One of his first speeches, if not his first speech, in this country, was delivered at the dinner of the Eighty Club, where he was the guest of the evening. Mr. Blake had, with exaggerated and unnecessary caution, committed his remarks to writing beforehand, and read them from a voluminous manuscript. The natural inference was that he could not express himself without preparation on the spur of the moment. A more erroneous inference was never drawn. There is no readier debater in t' House of Commons. Mr. Blake h ... not confined his attention to Mr. Chamberlain. He has dealt, among other people, with Mr. T. W. Russell, who paid a special visit to Canada for the purpose of discovering that Quebes was a French and Catholic province. Mr. Russell, with characteristic taste and discretion, pitted his ignorance against Mr. Blake's knowledge, and made a personal attack upon Mr. Blake, with disastrous results to him-

Mr. Blake, like most Liberals and Home Rulers, is the exact reverse of a Separatist. When he led the Liberal party in Canada he declined to have anything to do with the Annexationists, who desired incorporation with the United States. Though a democrat by conviction and sentiment, he is essentially a moderate man, working by decorous means to reasonable ends Irish by descent, he was born and bred at Toronto, so that before the general election of 1892 his whole career, was Canadian. He took his degree at Toronto University, he married the Bishop of Huron's daugh-

tor; he practiced at the Canadian bar; he was Prime Minister of Ontario, and Minister of Justice for the Dominion. He still practices before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, where he found himself the other day. curiously enough, opposed to Mr. Carcon. Mr. Blake's profound and thorough knowledge of constitutional law, with which oven Mr. Bryco is not better acquainted was of great service to the Government, and to his Irish colleagues, in Committee on the Home Rule bill. Mr. Blake was returned for South Longford by the pleasant satisfactory majority of seven to one. He thus had ample opportunity of testing at his election the truth of the Tory assurance that the Irish people cared no more for Home Rule.

Mr. Blake is one of the many Protestants elected in Ireland by Catholic votes. It did not seem to strike the Irish Tories that they would make themselves less ridiculous by taunting Irish Catholics with persecution if they could produce a specimen of a Catholic elected by Protestant votes. Mr. Blake was a great acquisition to the Nationalist party, who are often charged most unjustly with provincial narrowness of mind and view. But he has never thrust himself forward, or pretended to be more than an ordinary member of the party. The extreme modesty of Mr. Justin McCarthy, perhaps the most unassuming leader to be found in history is almost equalled by his distinguished colleague in the representation of Longford. For Mr. Blake is a very distinguished man. He has refused, like a genuine Radical and colonist, the red riband of St. Michael and St. George. He has played a great part in great affairs in a young and vigorous community, where the problems of constitutional government have been raised and solved in the most interesting fashion. Only the other day the Judicial Committee, sitting at Wuitehall, decided a case in which Mr Blake himself was counsel, and which adjusted the Coustitutional powers of the Ontario Legislature with those of the Domin ion Parliament. This is precisely the sort of question which would arise under the Home Rule bill, and which the wiseacre, the superior person, declares that no tribunal could determine.

# Belling a Rat.

A rather curious lawsuit is reported from Paris. A gentleman living in the Avenue de Neuilly was terribly annoyed with rats in his house. They were large, ravenous, numerous, and hard to catch. Finally he managed to trap one of the pests, and equipping him with a tiny bell, fastened to his neck with a bit of wire, set him again at liberty. The rat, of course, ran to find his companions, and they all ran as eagerly to avoid him, and in a little time there was not a rat left on the premises. Near by there lived a ner vous gentleman, and one night he was awakened by a curious tinkling sound which came on fitfully, and seemed to proceed from every corner of the room. He lit a candle, and timorously proceeded to search. There was nothing visible, and yet the mysterious sound was distinctly audible. He tried to think it was imagination, but, failing. decided it must be a ghost. It was hia houga s าลเรก haunted, too, by day, as well as by night. For weeks he could not sleep, and the anxiety told on his health. At lsat a gossiping servant learned the trnth, and the victim, instead of laugh ing at his own credulity, has begun an action against the man who belled the

CAN RECOMMEND IT.—Mr. Encs Bornberry, Tuscarora, writes: "I am pleased to say that Dr. Thomas Eclectric Oil is all that you claim it to be, as we have been using it for years, both internally and externally, and have always received benefit from its use. It is our family medicine, and I take great pleasure in recommending it."

Lord Rosebery and the Shoeblack.

The following story appeared in The New Your Sun on or about Soptember 2, 1892; "One day in 1873, when the Earl of Rossbery was in Now York inspecting American institutions, he passed through City Hall-square, and, noticing that his shoes required polishing, stopped in his walk, and beckoned to a small beotblack. The latter was apparently a bright boy, and after a while Lord Rosebery asked him his name. 'Pat, was the reply. The Earl saked him where he lived. 'At Father Drumgoole's, 53, Warren-atreei, 'l'at replied. His lordship was curious to know what sort of a place Father Drumgoole presided over. So he went to 53, Warren-street and found the kind old Father engaged in caring for the homeless boys of New York-a mission now well known to charitable people in this city. The Earl was greatly pleased with the Father's work. and also expressed his interest in Pat. Ho ssked Father Drumgoole to investigate Pat's history, and said if the boy was found worthy he would himself have Pat educated for the pursuit most suited to him. Father Drumgools found that Pat's mother was a widow with seven children. When Lcrd Rosebery returned from a trip to Washington he called on Father Drumgoole, and gave him money to clothe Pat, and enable him to begin his studies. He also gave the good Father a sum of money for his mission. His Lordship was much impressed by Father Drumgoole and his carnest work, and as he was about to sail for England he wrote the following letter:
"BREVOORT HOUSE,

December 17, 1873.

"'MY DEAR FATHER -I cannot get away to say good bye to you to-day, but, in the first place, I must send you myaddress-2, Berkley-quare, London W.-in order that you may write and tell me how your good work is getting on, and how Pat is progressing, and what money from time to time you want for him; and, in the second place, I must express my thankfulness to have been brought face to face with you, and with your noble work. I have never left you or your house without feeling that I had got an insight into a higher and holier life than men are generally privileged to lead, or indeed, capable of leading. I hope you may long be spared for it, and I may have the pleasure of seeing you and your institution pros pering and strongthening every year more and more. God bless you, if that may be said to you without presumption by your friend Rosebery.

"'P. S.—Will you devout a little of Pat's money to having him photographed, and sending me a copy?"
"Lord Rosebery subsequently sent

"Lord Rosebery subsequently sent Father Drumgoole his own photograph in a rich frame, which is still at the mission.

"In accordance with the plans of Father Drumgoole and the Earl, Pat, then thirteen years old, was placed in St. Francis Xavier's College, Sixteenth atreet. Pat's professors were pleased with him, but he did not live to fulfil expectations, as he died two years later.

"Last Tuesday night, on hearing that Lord Rosebery had just been appointed Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Mr. Gladstone, Father M'Nichol, of the Drumgoole Missien, recalled his story as told above. Lord Rosebery is an Episcopalian, and at the time of this occurrence was twenty six years old. The incident seemed noteworthy to Father M'Nichol, and to him is credit due for the story."

## Poor Blood

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