

should be granted. That was all they asked, and the question of the day was whether it was to be granted or not. Mr. Gladstone had appealed to them for an answer that he could regard as the answer of Ireland. Had they not given it to him? Calmly and confidently he awaited the issue. The declaration of their great leader stood publicly on record that it was to Mr. Gladstone that he looked for this crowning act of statesmanship. He awaited the issue with deep anxiety also, because already they had heard from across the Channel some foolish threatenings from English public men and from leading organs of English public opinion, threatenings of revolt within Mr. Gladstone's camp and within the ranks of his trusted lieutenants, threats to disregard the issue of the elections—threats that, though for a time they might unnerve the courage even of the veteran statesman who is pledged to do them justice, could not but lead eventually, and that speedily, to one sad result. That result might be deplored by them all. The constitutional expression of a nation's voice was likely also to be more effective for the accomplishment of its purpose than those other weapons to which even now some desperate men were waiting their opportunity to have recourse—the dagger of the assassin and those other and in some sense more fearful engines of destruction which the progress of modern science had placed in the hands of those who make no secret of their determination to seek for the last hope of freedom for Ireland, if they could not find it elsewhere, among the ruins of English cities and of English civilization. "You," concluded the Archbishop, "the men of Tipperary, shrink with no less horror than I do from the contemplation of so sad a prospect. Let us trust then that those in whose hands under Providence lie the issues of the immediate future will be wise in time. No nation surely ever had a stronger claim to be dealt with on the broad, plain principles of justice than Ireland has to-day." (Cheers.)