

I think the member for Muskoka described Parnell as a robber, or something of that kind, and here we have the Government, through the Minister Inland Revenue, communicating with a gentleman whom the member for Muskoka dubs as a rebel, or something worse. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think all the lovers of freedom in this House will support the amendment to the amendment that has been moved by the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I rather favor that. There is a word in the motion proposed by the leader of the Opposition which I would like to see left out. I will read the first sentence and point out the word, which I think might be left out because it gives it a narrowness which the motion ought not to have, I wish to see that one word "Irish" left out and "Her Majesty's subjects" inserted.

Mr. BLAKE. I would explain to the hon. gentleman that that word is in the original address, which I was following in that paragraph, and that is the reason it is there.

Mr. LANDERKIN. That is the address passed in 1882?

Mr. BLAKE. Yes.

Mr. LANDERKIN. That is quite satisfactory.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. LANDERKIN. The explanation as given is somewhat satisfactory no doubt; but it is not quite satisfactory to my mind because it has a broader signification

Mr. BLAKE. I quite agree.

Mr. LANDERKIN. And if there was an error at that time in the address I do not see why it should not be corrected now. With the motion of the leader of the Opposition I am heartily in accord. I am also heartily in accord with the amendment proposed by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I cannot understand that any gentleman who professes to be Irish, or any gentleman who professes to be liberal, anyone who professes to be loyal to Britain and British institutions, would refuse to pass the address at this time, when a Home Rule measure has been so far successful that in all human probability it will carry, and will become the law that will govern Ireland; a measure calculated, we must all admit, when we read the speech of the distinguished Mr. Gladstone, to cause us to wonder that statesmen of Britain had not devised a plan before. We wonder that Ireland should have been left so long crying for redress of its grievances. Mr. Gladstone's measure appears so simple, so statesmanlike, so broad, so much in accordance with the principles of liberty, freedom and eternal justice, that we wonder it was deferred so long, that the problem of the proper government of Ireland had been left to be solved by Mr. Gladstone in the zenith of his power, of his years and of his greatness, and that it had been left to him to introduce a measure comprehensive, liberal and just, a measure calculated to right the wrong that had existed so long, calculated to remove those grievances that had goaded the Irish people so long, calculated to remove the system of landlordism that had ground down the people of that country into a state of almost abject slavery. Is such a measure of statesmanship to be ignored by this House? I hope for the honor of the Canadian people this House will not come to such a decision. I speak here as a Canadian and a Protestant, and speaking from that standpoint I believe it is necessary in the interests of all the people in this country, irrespective of religion, creed or nationality, to come forward at this moment and assist Mr. Gladstone, and do all they can to strengthen his hands so that his statesmanlike measure may be carried into effect.

Mr. ORTON. I desire, before recording my vote on this very important question, to make a few brief remarks. Unlike many of the hon. members who have preceded me, I have not the honor of being an Irishman or the descendant of an Irishman, but I happen to be an English Canadian. At the same time I have for many years been in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. As far as my humble ability would allow me to judge, I have always held that to grant Home Rule to Ireland would be the best means of strengthening the British Empire and causing Ireland to be like what we desire Canada to be, more closely allied to the British Crown and the fortunes of the British Empire. I believe Home Rule for Ireland would have the effect of strengthening rather than weakening the British Empire. But while I hold these views I do not consider the system of Home Rule about to be inaugurated by Mr. Gladstone, is one that is calculated to strengthen the British Empire; it is not one calculated to elevate Ireland to the extent that Home Rule should elevate that country and improve its condition. In the first place, the reason why I am opposed to the resolution of the leader of the Opposition is because it endorses the Home Rule principle laid down by Mr. Gladstone.

An hon. MEMBER. No, it does not.

Mr. ORTON. I say that is not calculated to do good to Ireland. The principle laid down in the Home Rule proposition of Mr. Gladstone is one simply of local government in minor particulars and on minor points. It is not proposed to give to Ireland the management of her own customs revenue or her own Excise revenue, and I hold that the only way in which Ireland can ever be largely benefited is by giving to that country the management of its own customs duties, so that it can encourage its own manufactures and furnish additional channels for the employment of the people. That, in my opinion, is the only possible way in which a material improvement in the condition of the people can be brought about. One of the greatest causes of the misery and the unfortunate condition of affairs in Ireland to-day is because the Irish people are nearly altogether an agricultural people. They have no possibility of successfully competing with the accumulated capital of England and other manufacturing countries unless the Irish people have complete control over the Customs duties; and unless this is secured they can never hope to have large manufacturing establishments in Ireland. It is for this reason I cannot agree with the resolution of the leader of the Opposition. I do not feel the same fear as do some of my Protestant friends that the Protestant minority in Ireland will be oppressed. It is possible that such might occur under certain conditions, and I think a scheme should have been devised so as to have specially guarded their interests; while I am afraid the scheme of Mr. Gladstone is one that is devised to give opportunity for the oppression of the Protestant minority. We have seen the same thing in our own country, and I would like to see extended to the Protestant minority, in Ireland, the same principles that we extend to the Catholic minority in Ontario and the Dominion, and the same careful consideration of the minority as is conceded to the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec. But that, in my opinion, is not provided for in the measure that has been submitted to the British House of Commons, and therefore I say that I cannot support the resolution of the leader of the Opposition, because it causes this House to accede to the principle laid down by Mr. Gladstone in his Home Rule resolutions, and those principles are not the principles which I would like to see carried out. I would like to see the people of Ireland more closely allied to the British Crown. I would like to see them have representation in the British House of Commons; I would like to see them partake in the expenditure for the peace and preser-