

for political preferment, not for temporal remuneration, for theirs is a nobler cause the potent influence of which causes them far beyond personal consideration, and animates their action with a loftier motive namely—to eradicate the evils and to correct the historic wrongs of Ireland.

But the Irish Party, while existing primarily for the purpose of combating for Ireland's rights, has not selfishly restricted its efforts to that sole object. It realizes that if good government is beneficial to Ireland, then every salutary measure that is presented in the House of Commons should receive its generous support. Following this doctrine, even at the risk of delaying Home Rule for many a long year, it prevented a Liberal Government from effecting the destruction of denominational primary schools in England. But it aided a Liberal Government to abolish the veto power of the House of Lords, that has ever proved a stumbling-block in the path of every progressive measure, and has on principle opposed all democratic legislation.

The closure, a measure first invented by the Tory Government, to pass the perpetual Coercion Act for Ireland, is now being used by the Irish members to force that same Tory Party to accept, besides Home Rule, Welsh disestablishment and numerous other reforms that will be of marked benefit, particularly to the working classes of the United Kingdom. This line of action is but a continuation of what the representatives of Ireland in the British House of Commons, have ever been doing. It was through the efforts of Daniel O'Connell that the Catholics of England were emancipated. In his "Memoirs of Ireland," the great tribune, after bitterly complaining of the refusal of the representatives from other sections of the United Kingdom to aid in securing reforms for Ireland, reminds them that it was the Irish members that rendered possible the passage of such splendid measures as The British Parliamentary Reform Bill, the Scotch Reform Bill, the English Municipal Reform Bill and the Scotch Municipal Reform Bill.

Taking everything into consideration, I might add that at the present moment, the Irish Party in giving to the entire British Empire about as good a government as it has enjoyed since the days of King Alfred. We read much in the newspapers of the doings of Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the truth is, as those on the inside of British politics know full well—these gentlemen are but the office boys of John Redmond and hold office only at his good