

SPEECH
OF
MR. BLAKE, M.P.,

TO THE
Irish Nationalists of Glasgow,
DECEMBER, 1898.

MR. JOHN FERGUSON in the Chair.

Mr. Blake said—Mr. Chairman, the proceedings of this great meeting have demonstrated, what, indeed, I well knew before, that of eloquence and judgment and knowledge of public affairs you have ample stores, and need no imported goods. Nor do I make any pretensions to be an orator; I am but a plain man, able only to say plain things, in a plain way, to plain people like myself. And so it is that I intend to speak to you to-day. For these are critical times, in which it is well that we should take frank and calm counsel, one with another.

THE IRISH IN BRITAIN.

I am always glad, as one of the Irish from abroad, to meet with brother-Irishmen from beyond Ireland, whether in the States, or Canada, or Australia, or New Zealand; but specially with those in Britain, who, of all the Irish, have the greatest power. For, if there be yet the boast that the ascendancy still maintains a British garrison in Ireland, you may meet it by the fact that you are an Irish garrison in Britain; and you may again remind the English that you have a most important influence on the fate of elections and the fortune of parties here. Nor must you ever forget that, as your power, so is your responsibility. The pro-