

the Irishmen of this House and the Irishmen of the Senate had a meeting and talked the whole question over; and he said that every Irishman in this House and in the Senate was present. Well, Sir, I claim to be an Irishman, and I was not there; I heard nothing of the meeting, and I do not believe there is an Irishman on this side of the House who heard anything of it. I would like to know if the hon. leader of the Opposition heard anything of it?

Mr. BLAKE. No.

Mr. CURRAN. I spoke of Irish Catholic members and Senators.

Mr. BLAKE. It is a Catholic question, is it?

Mr. CURRAN. No, it is not, but you are trying to make a Grit question of it.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am sorry the hon. gentleman is so exceedingly narrow-minded on this question. I would like to know if the resolution carried in this House in 1882 was carried only by the votes of Irish Catholic members. I would like to know if both Catholic and Protestant members did not support that resolution. Mr. Parnell is not a Catholic, and why should the hon. gentleman narrow the question down to Catholics? No doubt he wanted to feel, and find out quietly what would be the prospect of carrying this resolution by hon. gentlemen opposite, and what would be the political effect of introducing the question; and, after considering that, he probably decided in his own mind that it would be better simply to have the Minister of Inland Revenue send a despatch across the Atlantic on behalf of the Irishmen of Canada. I cannot understand why he should claim the right to send such a despatch on behalf of the Irishmen of Canada. At any rate, they thought it proper to jilt the matter in that way; and now, when the hon. leader of the Opposition, after two months for them to move, has brought forward the question, they find that the wind has been taken out of their sails, and they anxiously ask themselves: What course can we take; it will never do to go to the country with the leader of the Opposition. introducing a resolution for Home Rule for Ireland; it will never do to allow him to carry away the laurels; we must try if we cannot in some way share the glory and popularity of having passed such a resolution. And in order to do that, the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue has brought forward his amendment. Now, if we could take the resolution that has been presented by the hon. leader of the Opposition and the amendment that has been presented by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue and place those two resolutions in the hands of Mr. Gladstone and in the hands of Mr. Parnell, I venture to say that their decision would be, let us have the resolution of the hon. leader of the Opposition. That is what suits our purpose. Why, in addressing Mr. Gladstone, do you think a resolution of this House would strengthen his hands or induce him more earnestly to give attention to the question? No; what he wants is a resolution asking the Queen and Crown of England to lend aid and encouragement to him in the tremendous struggle he has undertaken. We have had a little experience in this country with regard to the question of Home Rule, and are therefore in a position to speak with some authority on that subject. We know the differences that existed among our Provinces before Confederation; we can well remember the old political struggles that took place, when one Province was set against the other, and we are all glad to think that the days of those unfortunate differences are past, owing chiefly to Confederation. We are therefore in a better position to offer advice to the Crown than any other portion of her colonies, and it is only just to the people of Ireland that we should sympathise with the efforts made in their behalf,

and show our sympathy and encouragement by petitioning the Crown to yield to those efforts. There is another point, Sir, to which I wish to call your attention. For many years we have been spending large sums in trying to bring out immigrants from Ireland and other portions of the British Isles, and I believe our efforts and our money have been to a great extent uselessly sacrificed, owing to the ill-feeling that existed in the minds of the Irish people with regard to British rule. I believe if years ago Ireland had got Home Rule, we would to-day have more Irishmen living in Canada, which would be a decided advantage to us. Any man who will travel through Ireland, as I have and witnessed the evidence of ancient greatness on every hand and the unfortunate condition of things to-day which stand out in strong contrast to those evidences of past grandeur, will come to the conclusion that something is wanted. He will easily see that Ireland has not been progressing and that there is evident necessity, and the evidence of the necessity that something should be granted in the way of Home Rule is to be seen on every hand and to be heard in the expressions of the people, giving vent to the almost unanimous desire for some change of that kind. If Ireland got Home Rule, she would use it cautiously and carefully, knowing that the eyes of the world would be turned upon her to see whether she would really use the privilege granted to her with prudence and care. I believe the Catholic majority would deal out to the Protestant minority an ample share of fair treatment, and that the latter would not suffer in the slightest. I shall never believe anything else until I see the measure of Home Rule proposed by Mr. Gladstone put in operation, and see it fail, which latter event, at present, I do not think at all probable. I believe it is the incumbent duty of this House to express our opinion on this question, and not to present our resolution in the emasculated style proposed by the Minister of Inland Revenue. The hon. gentleman who last spoke appeared to challenge the sincerity of the leader of the Opposition. I cannot understand why the hon. gentleman should challenge his sincerity. I think the leader of the Opposition has given ample evidence of his sincerity, first, by introducing the resolution in a broad and comprehensive style, and, second, by the very admirable speech which he delivered on that occasion. Is there a gentleman in this House who sympathises with the Irish movement, who could take exception to a single word in that speech? Did not the leader of the Opposition try to impress on the House the absolute necessity that its expression of opinion should be unanimous, not as a party question, but as an expression of Canadian public sentiment, with the object of strengthening Mr. Gladstone's hands by securing to him the prestige which would arise from our action and our experience in the matter of Home Rule. The hon. gentleman also stated that the leader of the Opposition had introduced the measure on his own responsibility, without consulting anybody in the House. That is not true. As far as I am concerned, I can speak as an Irishman, and I believe he did not confine his views to the Irishmen in the House or the Catholic Irishmen on this side as did the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman said he consulted the Catholics of the House and the Catholics of the Senate, but the leader of the Opposition did not confine his opinions to Catholics or Protestants. He is not accustomed to proceed in that way, and before the hon. gentleman should undertake to say that the leader of Opposition consulted nobody, he should have taken the trouble to enquire a little into the facts. Probably he thought that the leader of the Opposition proceeded in the way the hon. gentleman did himself. The hon. gentleman also spoke with regard to the attitude of the *Globe* and *Mail*. Well, any person who is in the habit of reading the *Globe* can come to no other conclusion than that the *Globe* is a consistent advocate of Home Rule. Its course on that question has been advocated in that bold and