

THE '98 CENTENNIAL.

A Monster Demonstration of Irishmen in London.

Patriotic Speeches Delivered by the Irish Leaders and Members of the National Party—Full Text of the Resolutions Adopted—Mr. John Dillon's Spirited and Eloquent Deliverance The Spirit of the Men of '98 Still Lived—Some Stirring Features of the Rebellion Told in a Thrilling Manner.

A great demonstration of Irishmen resident in London was held in St. James' Hall, Piccadilly, on Wednesday evening, to honor the memories of the men who so nobly fought and fell for Ireland's freedom in the memorable year of '98. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. O'Kelly, M.P., and amongst those present were Mr. John Dillon, M.P., Mr. William Redmond, M.P., Mr. William O'Brien, Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Michael Davitt, M.P., Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, M.P., Mr. W. O'Malley, M.P., Mr. Abraham, M.P., Mr. Kilbride, M.P., Dr. Tanner, M.P., Mr. J. Roche, Mr. M. Flavin, M.P., Mr. Jordan, M.P., Mr. J. Gilhooly, M.P., Father Whelan, Major Kelly, and Mrs. O'Connell Collins. The gathering, composed of Irishmen of various political opinions, was of a most enthusiastic character, and a noticeable feature of the proceedings was the hearty cheers with which any reference to Irish unity was greeted.

The Chairman's Speech.

Mr. J. O'Kelly, M.P., in opening the proceedings, said before proceeding to the business of the meeting he thought it was his duty to call the attention of those present to the sad disaster which had befallen the American navy. And he proposed that this meeting of Irishmen assembled in London should authorize him to send to the President of the United States the following telegram of sympathy: To President McKinley, White House, Washington:

A large representative meeting of Irish Nationalists assembled in St. James' Hall, London, has heard with deep grief the disaster which has befallen the United States warship Maine at Varenne, and begs the President to convey to the American nation their deep and sincere sympathy. America's sorrows always appeal to Irish hearts.—James O'Kelly, (chairman), John Dillon, Michael Davitt, T. Harrington, T. P. O'Connor, William O'Brien, and William Redmond. Continuing, Mr. O'Kelly said they were that night assembled in order to do honor to the memory of the men who died for Ireland 100 years ago (loud cheers). That meeting was composed of Irishmen who differed on many points in the ordinary politics of the day, but there was one point upon which, among Irish Nationalists, there was no division, and he hoped there never would be any division—(loud cheers)—and that point was the right of Ireland to independent national government and the right of the people, if necessary,

TO SECURE THAT LIBERTY BY FORCE.

Only a few days ago he told the British Parliament to its teeth that Irishmen reserved to themselves the right on a fit and proper occasion to use force to win back their liberty as force had been used to take it from them (hear, hear). He was not going to hide himself behind his privilege as a member of Parliament, and he repeated the statement in public that evening (cheers). The history of '98 was one of the most glorious epochs in the history of the people of Ireland. It was the first truly national movement, although other struggles preceded it, but the national idea was absent in them (hear, hear). The men of '98 rose up to struggle for the true national idea—the creation of a real national government of the people by the people in Ireland—and that was one of the reasons why their memory had burned itself indelibly into the Irish heart. It was not his intention to follow the episodes of that struggle; there were many able men around him that night who would talk of the stirring period. He attended that meeting as a duty to his country (cheers). He came in the hope that this national idea would grow, and that it would furnish the means of once more uniting the whole Irish race in one more struggle for liberty (loud cheers).

The First Revolution.

Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien moved the first resolution, which read as follows: That we hail with the greatest satisfaction the growth of a movement throughout the country inhabited by our scattered Celtic race which has for its object during this year to worthily honour and reverence the names and memories of Wolfe Tone and his fellow United Irishmen, and of all who helped by service or sacrifice in the patriotic effort to win back the freedom of our fatherland a century ago. He could see (he said) that the resolution had already met with the entire and hearty approval of the meeting. It could not do otherwise, for Irishmen could have no more precious inheritance than the memory of the heroes of '98 (cheers). They were all better for the consideration of the deeds done by the men of '98. Their gratitude to the men of '98 was

great—the men who lifted up their hand for the rights and liberties of their country which a brutal soldiery had trampled in the mire. It was an unequal fight; it was peasants, unaccustomed to arms, defending their homes against the trained army of England. They preferred death to dishonour, and they had the courage to strike a blow in defence of their country's honor.

TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THOSE HEROES

of '98 was, therefore, a sacred duty for them. To fail in this duty would be a dishonor to Irishmen, proving, as it would, that they could not appreciate the heroic deeds of others, and were therefore incapable of heroic deeds themselves. (Cheers.) They were assembled that night to honor the memory of the men of 1798, and to rejoice and glory in their deeds, and speaking for himself, he would say that, under similar circumstances, he would do as the men of '98 did. (Loud cheers.) He would go further, and say that if the Government continued to show no desire to settle Ireland's quarrel with them it would be better for all concerned to make it clear that the Government would have to take the consequences. (Cheers.) He thought it no harm to let English statesmen know that Irishmen were determined that Ireland must and shall be a self-governing country—(cheers)—and that, come what, come may, they would not put aside that determination by any consideration as to cost. The best way in which they could honor the men of '98 was by declaring they would still strive for their rights. If one road be found impassable, they would have to find another way, even though it be more difficult. (Loud cheers.)

Michael Davitt Speaks.

Mr. Davitt, who was received with loud cheers, said he heartily supported the resolution, and he did so all the more heartily because he felt and believed that they, his fellow-countrymen and fellow-countrywomen, believed with him that in honoring the names of the men of '98, and in doing reverence to their memories, they were doing honor to their country and to themselves (cheers). Those names and those memories were a national heritage of the Irish people, and the day when the Celtic race would be either afraid or ashamed to speak of '98, or to regret that the glorious struggle of that year was not successful—that day they would merit the contempt of all liberty-loving people throughout the world (applause). But that day, thank God, would never dawn upon Ireland (renewed cheers). He would go further, and say that the Irish race would never become so degenerate or so base as to forget those who fought and died for that freedom which, as their chairman had said in another place the other night, was granted to their fatherland when God Almighty spread the ocean around her shores and marked her limits. In fact, the Irish people, even if they were so degenerate and so base, could not forfeit Ireland's right to nationhood. Here was an instructive lesson for those who thought a great principle could be destroyed by the base policy of depopulating a country. Who were

THE LEADERS AND INSPIRERS

of the '98 Rebellion. They were almost all of English extraction. Wolfe Tone, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Russell, Will Orr, and others, were more or less Celtic in their origin, but the seductive influence of the land itself and English misrule on the one hand, and the power of Ireland's sentiment on the other, turned these men into soldiers and martyrs for Ireland's national cause. No disaster or depopulation would ever destroy the spirit and aspiration of the Irish race for freedom. Wolfe Tone it was true, did not succeed, but neither did he fail, because there were at least 10,000,000 of the Irish race to-day scattered round the world who believed and thought as he and the men of 1798 did (loud cheers). His purpose in trying to achieve Ireland's liberty lived to-day wherever the Irish race was to be found (applause). There was no need for him to argue in defence of the action of the men of 100 years ago, for even English historians had been driven by facts to denounce in the strongest manner the infamy of the English Government in Ireland one hundred years ago (cheers). No; the men of '98 needed no defence from him. They made but one mistake, and that was that they did not succeed. That was not their fault; for they merited success, and had they won and secured the independence of Ireland, the world—even the English part of it—would to-day have linked the name of Wolfe Tone with that of George Washington amongst the successful soldiers of liberty. If Ireland had gained her independence it would have been better for her and better for England. Ireland would have been no exception to the rule that liberty encouraged progress, and if the men of '98 had been successful Ireland would have been more prosperous. An independent Belgium was no menace to France, nor would an independent Ireland be a danger to Great Britain. He trusted that meeting would have the effect of enlarging the views of English statesmen on the Irish question, and that the result would be the granting to Ireland a full measure of liberty (loud cheers).

The resolution was carried with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Dillon Proposes the Second Resolution.

Mr. John Dillon, who was enthusiastically received, then moved the second resolution, which read as follows: That this meeting of Irish men and women residing in the metropolis of the British empire heartily associates itself with this work of commemorating the great struggle of 'The Men of '98' to restore Ireland's national independence; and we call upon Irishmen at home and abroad to participate in this movement, free from all party and sectional feeling, and to give no countenance to any policy or programme which might tend to exclude any of our fellow-countrymen desiring to take part therein from joining in the work of expressing national gratitude to those 'who rose in dark and evil days to right their native land.' They were assembled (said the speaker) in the metropolis of a mighty empire to commemorate the one hundredth anni-

versary of a rebellion, and an unsuccessful rebellion, against the rule of England in Ireland (loud applause). They were assembled, as it had been pointed out by some of their critics, to commemorate a failure, but there were failures in the history of mankind which were infinitely and unspeakably more precious from a spiritual point of view, and as a heritage for humanity, than the mightiest triumphs and the proudest exploits of the greatest empires of the world (loud applause). They looked back upon the history of the Irish race, and they recalled the fact that some of the greatest deeds which had come down resounding along the stream of time, and forming a spiritual treasure of mankind, had been great failures achieved in a holy and sacred cause [hear, hear]. When they looked back to early days in the history of mankind, they thought of the deeds done by small nations and small communities of people which in their fame today and in their effect on the development of mankind, and, above all, of human liberty, far exceeded the mightiest triumphs of the Roman empire [loud applause]. When they thought of the infancy of human liberty they looked back, not to the victories of Rome, which some had compared to the British empire of today, but to the struggles of three little communities, hardly more numerous than the counties of Ireland, but which, because their battle

WERE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY

and enlightenment, had come down through the ages with greater and far mightier influence than the greatest victories (loud cheers). They looked back to the day of the 300 who fought at Thermopylae, and although they failed and fell, and although over their dead bodies the soldiers of the East marched on hardly checked in their course, yet their spirit lived in the breasts of millions, and had inspired many in the fight against tyranny, and for the vindication of human liberties (loud cheers). And so it was with the gallant men who fought for Irish liberty in 1798. They fell, and they failed. That meeting was assembled in the capital of the empire against which they fought, and they were proud of their memory and their principles (loud cheers). Nay, more, although they fought and fell, and although the bloody tyranny of that time rode rough-shod over Ireland from sea to sea, the spirit of the men of '98 still lived, and all the reforms—and they had been many—that had dailed the edge of misgovernment and tyranny in Ireland were due to the gallant sacrifices which these men had made (cheers). They were assembled that night in the heart of England's empire to say that they honored and revered the memory of Wolfe Tone and of all the leaders who gallantly stood up for liberty in those days, and they would not forget, although their names had not come down to them, the thousands of unnamed dead who, pikes in hand, stood before the trained troops in Europe with a splendid bravery which had never been surpassed (loud cheers). The untrained lads, the children of the peasantry of Ireland

DRIVEN BY CRUEL TYRANNY

into the field, undrilled, unofficered, unarmed, except by pikes and scythes, and hunted them out of a dozen battlefields in head-long flight (loud cheers). They knew what was the fate of their countrymen—there were not less than 15,000 of them—they were slaughtered either in open battle or by the cowardly ruffians who ran from before their pikes, but who took them unawares and hung them after the rebel armies had been broken up. When he heard men, as they had heard them, sneer at the episodes of '98, and at Wolfe Tone, he said deliberately—and he based the statement on a careful study of the history of those days—that in all the history, in all the time of the gallant struggles made for human liberty, there was not a history of which a nation had more right to be proud than the fight made for liberty by the leaders of '98 (loud and continued cheers). Now, after 100 years, when their brave bodies were mouldering in their graves, their spirit lived, and here to-day he knew of no more magnificent testimony of the indelible character of the spirit of Ireland than that, after 100 years had rolled by—here to-day, in the centre of the British empire, they should be assembled at this great meeting to declare that the spirit still lived in them (loud cheers). They were still ruled by Englishmen and Scotchmen and the servants of England. Their strength was still in the weakness of Ireland, and their object was not the interests of Ireland but the interests of another country (hear, hear). One consolation they had, and it was this. They might be deprived of liberty, they might still be subject to the rule of Englishmen and of strangers, but one thing they were not—they were not willing slaves (loud and continued cheers). The Irish people had always been a troublesome race to govern—(loud cheers)—and he promised the present government and all other governments that might come after who tried to continue to rule Ireland without the consent of the people, that they would have an uneasy task, and so long as they denied to the people of Ireland that right for which their forefathers had never ceased to struggle, the right to manage their own affairs on the soil which God gave to their race, so long would they and those who came after, by every means, make the position of their English governors as uncomfortable as possible (loud and continued cheers). Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., seconded the resolution, and appealed to his fellow-countrymen to blot out all minor differences in doing honor to the men who fought for Ireland in '98. The resolution was carried unanimously.

William O'Brien's Speech.

Mr. William O'Brien, who was received with prolonged cheering, read the third and final resolution: That we further declare the United Irishmen and all who rebelled against alien domination, injustice, and oppression in Ireland a hundred years ago to have been, in their motives and supreme aim, worthy of the admiration of all lovers of right and justice, who believe in the great principle for which these soldiers of freedom fought and died—namely, "liberty and peace to man-

kind"—and we earnestly appeal to our race to cherish their memories and aspirations as an incentive to the ultimate achievement of a free and independent Irish nation.

The resolution, he said, spoke more eloquently for itself than he could speak for it. The men of '98 had not failed, and nearly all the objects which those men had sought had either been attained or immensely advanced in consequence of their efforts. These objects had not been won by parliamentary action alone, as '98 and '07 showed, and in obedience to one force or another Great Britain would have to satisfy

THE UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT OF THE IRISH NATION

(cheers). Before the work of reconciliation was done it would be necessary again to shock Englishmen, and Englishmen not of one party alone (cheers). A Michael Davitt at Washington might be as successful as Wolfe Tone at Paris (cheers). The lessons of the past would have to be taught to the English people, and again, and in God's name let it be taught in this year of 1898 (loud cheers). And by every possible means, he said, it must be impressed on this country that England's difficulty would be Ireland's opportunity (loud cheers). Mrs. O'Connell Collins seconded the resolution, and said that the men of '98 set an example of unity which it would be well for them to follow. In another generation her great-grandfather, Daniel O'Connell, started the reformed movement, and Isaac Butt and Parnell—(loud cheers)—followed, and there were Irishmen still who were not a raid to fight and die for Ireland (cheers). Last year the Queen's jubilee was celebrated—(laughter)—but it was a sad thing that Ireland could take no part in the jubilee. As a woman she expected sympathy, but Ireland had had no sympathy. The resolution was carried with the same unanimity as the others. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by Mr. Condon, M.P., which was seconded by Mr. Dillon, and briefly acknowledged.

THE "MAINE" DISASTER.

Some Comments on the Wild Statements of Sensational Journals.

An Opinion Regarding the Ability of Spain to Cope With Difficulties.

In view of the rumors of war circulated by certain sections of the American press, as a probable outcome of the investigation into the causes of the disaster of the battleship Maine, we give the following interesting opinions: The Church News, Washington, referring to the subject, says:—

When a powerful nation is on the eve of war and her officials are calmly debating the question whether or not to unsheathe the sword it is infamous for the great dailies to endeavor to bring discredit upon them and weaken their influence. We have had a striking exhibition of the yellow journalism since the sad disaster to the battleship Maine. During the period when the country is waiting with nervous anxiety to hear the tidings, which will inform the people whether or not we shall be plunged into war, not a few of the secular newspapers are so

DEAD TO THE INSPIRATION OF PATRIOTISM

and to the teachings of justice and humanity as to labor day after day to add to the excitement of the people, and thus

handicap the President and his Cabinet. The truly brave man does court battle, but when he must fight or forfeit his honor he never hesitates. Our nation is founded on the principles of eternal justice, and we cannot afford to rush into war until we are fully certain that we are in the right. And it is by no means an evidence of patriotism for our newspapers to labor to prevent an investigation which will determine the question.

Timely Words from Judge Harlan.

At the end of a lecture on constitutional law to the students in the law department of the Columbia University, Washington, Judge Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, in referring to the disaster to the Maine, said:

"I do not think I can better describe what I want to say to-night than by saying to you that we are now in times when people ought not to lose their heads, as a mere people do, and in and out of Congress I can perform no better service to you, I am sure, than to advise you to keep your heads on your shoulders, and not to pass judgment upon great questions when you have not the facts before you. It is not by saying that our present troubles are, as it were, the work of a few days, that you will reason the final conclusion. You will understand very well what I mean. A great calamity has occurred in the waters near by. It is a pity many men say that it is a mere accident, and that it will be forgotten in the excitement of the following year, when he expresses the anxiety that it will turn out that it was an accident, but that it was treachery, rather than an accident. Beave, generous men do not want to think so badly of their fellowmen. We don't want to believe that that was an act of treachery and duplicity; we hope it will turn out otherwise. And we ought all to have this feeling, that if it turns out to be accidental, we should rejoice; if it turns out not to be accidental, we will not bear any in re of North, South, East, or West, no more of Republicans or Democrats or Populists. We will bear only of Americans."

A Comparison.

The Post has this to say in relation to the question in regard to Spain: A misconception that we have formed is that the Spain of today is hardly a great power, that it is withered and decrepit—amongst nations as a sort of Don Quixote as he appeared when he was borne to sea on an ox cart, a brave but unlucky career. Now the facts are that the government of Spain, although marred in many respects, that of Holland, Italy and Greece, is as free and amenable to public opinion as ours, and not a whit more under the domination of brass knuckles we are, and that although short of the colonial importance of former days, it is the same Spain in spirit that it was when it ruled the Indies, the same that it was when it made its only struggle against the tyranny of Napoleon. Nor are the inhabitants a whit more cruel than

LARGE PORTIONS OF OUR OWN PEOPLE.

A few days a colored man in South Carolina was shot to death in the presence of his family for no other offence than that of holding a public office to which he had been lawfully appointed by the President of the United States. And this was no solitary act, but rather the expression of the settled determination of the community that no negro shall hold office there. Yet we presume that those who also those who burned two Cherokee Indians at the stake the other day, and many who recite the approval of these transactions, although they would not soil their own hands with them, are shocked by the tales of Weylerism in Cuba, and they wonder why our government does not interfere on grounds of humanity.

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