

action of this House in any other than its true light. For that reason I would just say a few words with regard to the amendment which was moved by myself and which he criticised so severely and condemned so unreservedly. I prefer using the evidence of those who are known to sympathise as strongly as the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) with the question of Home Rule, to anything that I could myself say on the subject. The hon. gentleman stated that, because the motion of the hon. leader of the Opposition had been voted down by the passage of the amendment moved by myself, it was hailed in the Old Country as a victory by the enemies of Home Rule, and used, for that purpose, to the detriment of the cause of Home Rule. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman, I think, did not read the press, and the Irish press especially, upon that question. I am not now going to discuss the merits of the resolution introduced by the leader of the Opposition as compared with the amendment which I moved myself, but I am going to give the opinion of that portion of the Irish press most devoted to the Irish cause, showing their appreciation of the relative value of the two motions submitted to this House. *United Ireland* of the 15th May, 1886, had the following article:—

“Great capital is sought to be made by a couple of English Tory papers out of the fact that the Dominion House of Parliament has by a large majority rejected the resolution of Mr. Blake, leader of the Opposition, in favour of self-government.”

I could easily understand that if that were the whole story telegraphed across the Atlantic, the enemies of the Home Rule in the British Parliament would have used that fact against the movement in Ireland and in the Imperial House of Commons. They would have declared that public opinion in Canada in 1886 was not the same as it had been in 1882, when my resolutions were carried by the unanimous vote of this House and the almost unanimous vote of the Senate. But *United Ireland* goes on to say:

“On looking at the telegraphed report of the debate on the question we are opaque enough to fail to discern any particular ground for Tory delight. The debate, we perceive, lasted until five o'clock in the morning, and in the result an amendment of Mr. Costigan, a member of the Ministry, was adopted. The amendment differed very little in substance, though it did in construction, from the proposed resolution. It expressed a cordial interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Irish people, and adhered to the sentiments expressed in the former address to the Crown on the subject of granting a measure of self-government to Ireland. While declining to forward any fresh address, having regard to the snub then administered by the Tory Government—”

But we know that it was under Mr. Gladstone's Government that the Colonial Secretary sent the despatch he did. This article proceeds:

—“the Canadian Parliament reiterates its good wishes for Ireland, and earnestly hopes that some measure satisfactory to its people may be passed. Now, where is the cause of our contemporaries' unholy joy? Between amendment and resolution it is all but a case of tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. The advantage, if any, is on the side of Irish liberty; for it is from the responsible Ministry these good wishes emanate, not from the irresponsible Opposition.”

There is the appreciation of the two resolutions by the leading Irish organ in Ireland on that question; and I am satisfied to leave the matter there and let that decide as to the merits of the two resolutions. I make no pretension to claim that the amendment I moved was more useful, that it was stronger or went further in favor of Home Rule than the resolution moved by the leader of the Opposition. All that I claim is this—that in reiterating the sentiments expressed by this House on a former occasion, it became more consistent with the action of that House, more acceptable to the House, and more likely to secure the votes of hon. members. The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) alluded to one fact to which I desire also to allude. He alluded to the great number of Irishmen living in the Republic to the south of us, and to the warm sympathy which they felt towards Ireland, and he expressed the fear that a continuance of the present unhappy state of affairs in Ireland might produce a discontent among our countrymen in

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the United States which might in time produce serious consequences to us in Canada. Now, I hold that there is no difference of opinion between the Irishmen in the United States and those in Canada on the broad question of Home Rule and justice to Ireland. I believe the Irishmen in both countries are looking forward with an equally earnest hope to the time when some measure of self-government shall be given to Ireland. There is just this difference, however, between them: The Irishmen who have gone to the United States to make it their home, and to contribute to the prosperity and progress of that country, in leaving their native land, severed all connection with the British Government and British institutions. On that account they entertain feelings of resentment, and having severed that connection, there was nothing to prevent that feeling from growing in intensity and becoming evident whenever occasion presented itself for giving expression to it. On the other hand, Irishmen who left the motherland and came to Canada to cast in their lot with us here, assumed a different attitude, and for good reasons. They have not severed their connection with the British flag or British institutions; but in this country, although a portion of the British Empire, they found that freedom and protection which they did not possess in the land from which they came. There was no reason, therefore, why they should entertain any feeling of hostility towards the British Empire such as was felt by those who went to the United States. Having taken up their residence in Canada, and become Canadian citizens, they felt it a duty, which they have always discharged, to be as true to the country of their adoption as the Irishmen of the United States are to the Stars and Stripes. I say this because I do not apprehend the same degree of danger of aggression from Irishmen in the United States that some men believe to exist. Those who have watched the course of things among the Irishmen in the United States know that they have nothing but feelings of warm gratitude to the people and Parliament of Canada for the action they have taken in dealing with this question. When American Irishmen consider that this Parliament, at a trying time, when famine visited the land of their forefathers, gave out of the public treasury of this country, with a willing hand and with the approval of the Canadian people, a very liberal sum for the relief of distress at that time; when they remember that the Irish minority came to this Parliament and asked it to express sympathy with the Irish people in their demand for Home Rule, and the Canadian Parliament voted that sympathy with the unanimous vote of this Chamber, as well as with the vote of the other Chamber, they must accept those acts as proofs of our sympathy and as strong claims on their gratitude. The question came up again in 1886, when this Parliament was ready again to reiterate its expression of sympathy. All these things must establish a kindly feeling in the breasts of the Irishmen of America towards the people of this country. I believe, Sir, that the motion which has been placed in your hands by my hon. friend, the member for Montreal, will carry, and will receive a large and generous support from the members of this House. Like the hon. leader of the Opposition, I have noticed in the papers criticisms of the motion, and also of the mover. Now, I hold that the resolutions come very appropriately from my hon. friend representing Montreal Centre, the largest Irish constituency in the Dominion. That constituency took the first move in entering a protest against the measure of coercion now before the Imperial Parliament, and my hon. friend is following up its action in making this motion. The hon. leader of the Opposition, who has, with his usual ability, spoken on this question, has called the attention of my hon. friend to what seemed to him certain defects in the resolutions now before you. Instead of moving an amendment, he said he threw out suggestions to my hon. friend of certain changes in the