

for whose benefit it is intended. History, and our own experience have taught us that it is no uncommon fate for reformers to suffer dire penalty for their courage and their foresight. When Mr. Gladstone undertook, by meeting the sentiments of the Irish people for local government, to settle the Irish problem, and to make Ireland a contented, happy, and proud member of the United Kingdom and of the British Empire, he had to suffer, and did suffer the penalty of his courage and his foresight. He suffered the loss of friends, the loss of popularity, the loss of power, but he sowed deep in the ground, and he laid the foundation of eternal gratitude not only in the hearts of the Irish people, but in the hearts of the British subjects all over the world. He did not live to see the full fruition of his labor, but we are now witnesses of his labors coming to fruit.

HAVE SOWN WELL.

We, too, in our humble way, and with our modest force, we have sown seed in the ground. We had to champion causes which were not immediately popular, such as the establishment of the Canadian navy. We have had to suffer the penalty of our courage and foresight. We have lost friends. We have lost power. We have lost popularity. So far as I am concerned, however, I tell you again that I regret nothing.

The seed will still germinate. Happier than Gladstone, it may be my lot to see it reach its full maturity; but that is not with me the supreme consideration. The supreme consideration I have given to you at the beginning, and I give it to you at the end—"My orders are to fight."