

The chair was occupied (by request) by Mr. Charles Mathews.

After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Mathews gave the usual standard toasts, which were duly honoured.

Mr. Mathews then gave the toast of the evening, and, in doing so, said :

GENTLEMEN,

Under any other circumstances, I should begin by apologising for placing myself in the onerous position I now occupy ; but since you have done me the honor to invite me to it, I conclude that it is not only a compliment to myself but a pleasure to you to see me here. (Cheers.) With this flattering unction I confidently plunge into the task I have undertaken. I will not say that I am unfitted for it, for that would be casting a slur upon your judgment in electing me ; but in doing so (knowing me so well), you will not, I am sure, have reckoned on any brilliant display of eloquence on the occasion, but will be content to hear me address you in my own gossiply way, and allow me to chatter on with you as among old friends, instead of astonishing you with any elaborate bursts of oratory, carefully prepared, as for a grave and formal assembly. (Hear, hear.) There is no doubt that I ought, by right, to be a Scotchman to-night ; but here in Canada that necessity is not so strong as it would be at home, seeing that abroad the distinction between Scotch, English and Irish is not so marked. Here we are all "Britishers ;" and after