

fortune was princely, but it amounted to only five per cent. on a set of railway enterprises compared with the aggregate fruits of which to the people of the different countries Mr. Brassey's millions were a mere dribble. This of course cannot be said of fortunes made by gambling on the Stock Exchange, the number of which on this continent is, however, not great. Nor can the actual consumption of wealth by the millionaire himself be very large; frequently it is very small, simplicity of life having become a habit with him, while so much as is not consumed fructifies in the shape of investments, with advantage to the community at large. There is a well-known story of one of the Rothschilds who, being assailed by a Leveller, asked him what he thought would be his individual share of the Rothschild estate if it were equally distributed among the whole population. The Leveller could not pretend that it would be more than half-a-crown. "There, then," said Rothschild, taking half-a-crown from his pocket, "is your share; now be content." Were millionaires to take it into their heads to convert their money into political power, there might be reason to fear their influence; but they are generally deterred from meddling with politics by the timidity of wealth. If they were all put to death and their fortunes dispersed to-morrow, nobody but those who suffer very much from the pang of envy could experience any sensible relief.

It is difficult to understand the position of the *Globe* respecting the Home Rule, or, as it should rather be called, the Nationalist Movement. A series of meetings has been held here, and subscriptions have been taken up by Roman Catholic Irishmen and their sympathizers for the purpose of promoting the severance of the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, and the establishment of Ireland as an independent nation. There could be no more doubt about the object in view than about the Anti-British violence of the language in which it was advocated. Emmett, who was glorified as a precursor of the agitation, did not aim merely at a measure of local self-government. It was also plain that there was an intimate connection between the movement here and that in the United States, where money was subscribed for dynamite, and the intention not only of breaking up the United Kingdom, but of destroying the British power, was proclaimed in the most rampant terms. The *Globe*, with motives which we have no doubt were excellent, has bucked the movement in Canada. At last, a counter movement takes place among people who do not wish to see the United Kingdom dismembered or the British power destroyed. Thereupon the *Globe* turns round and declares that any movement on the subject is premature, needless, and absurd. We ought to wait patiently for Mr. Gladstone's scheme. But the nature of Mr. Gladstone's scheme, and still more his chance of carrying it, if it includes the establishment of an Irish Parliament, must depend on the manifestations of public opinion. Both parties in the Mother Country are accordingly bestirring themselves to the utmost, and there is the same reason for prompt and vigorous action here. Mr. Gladstone has to satisfy Mr. Parnell, whose avowed aim it is "to sever the last link that connects Ireland to Great Britain." In face of such utterances people can hardly be told without absurdity that Disunion is the phantom of their own fancies. It is scarcely worthy of the good sense of our contemporary to ascribe the Loyal Demonstration in Toronto to the machinations of Sir John Macdonald. It originated, we can say with certainty, in a quarter not only independent of Sir John Macdonald, but opposed to him in political opinion, and one of the resolutions was designed to efface, among other false expressions of Canadian opinion, the Costigan Resolutions, which Sir John is believed to have framed.

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY, of the Nationalist League, Mr. Parnell's lieutenant, is now the correspondent of some of our leading journals, and our people perhaps are drawing their ideas of events relating to the Irish question from his letters. On paper, nobody can be more smooth, unctuous, and persuasive than Mr. Justin McCarthy. His tone is moderation itself. His readers would not guess that he was the elect of moonlighters, boycotters, and cattle-houghers, or that he was the confederate of Irish-American Invincibles and Dynamiters. The leaders, it is true, have just now passed the word for the suspension of the more murderous forms of outrage, in order to "smooth the path" of the Parnellite Chief Secretary for Ireland and his chief; and in so doing they have made it clear that they not only profited by the criminal action of the League, but had it under their control, and were therefore responsible for it. The reign of terror, however, is sufficiently kept up by boycotting. Cannot Mr. Justin McCarthy be induced to give us something in his suave style about the recent boycotting case, in which the wife of a man who had offended the League being in travail, was prevented by boycotting from receiving medical assistance?

A press despatch has stated that at the late meeting here in aid of the Irish Loyalists the whole of the Nationalist League was present, and that the rest of the meeting consisted of Orangemen. Both statements were erroneous. The number of Leaguers, or persons of that way of thinking, present was very small; it probably did not amount to a twentieth part of the great assemblage, and though a very small minority can always do a good deal in the way of interruption, such attempts were in this case reduced to impotence by the general enthusiasm. Not the Orange body alone, but the loyalty of Toronto generally, was well represented, irrespective of Order or party, both in the audience and on the platform. It is true, however, and the fact need not be concealed, that in this great crisis of the fortunes of our race and institutions the Orange Order has come once more to the front. Behind the gray and war-scarred ramparts of that old historic fortress the faithful liegemen of British civilization are rallying to defend the unity and greatness of their Mother Country against the enemies of the British race and name. On the resolution and constancy of the Loyalists in the North of Ireland the issue of the struggle largely depends, and the Loyalists of the North of Ireland are represented by the Orangemen here. It would be better perhaps if political organizations could be altogether dispensed with, and each citizen could be left individually to form his own opinion and follow the dictates of his own conscience. But on the side of the assailants of British and Protestant civilization there is not only organization but terrorism of the most tyrannical, cruel, and unscrupulous kind. Organization on the other side is, therefore, merely self-defence. Orangeism will fight only with honourable weapons; it will not resort to midnight murder, cattle-houghing, or boycotting, but it will fight; and amidst the weakness, vacillation, and treason which fill the scene, its strength, fidelity, and firmness afford the best rallying-point for the defenders of the Union.

THE Evil One who craftily inspires Loyalist meetings in his own interest, and "fills the butchers' shops with large blue flies," may with some reason be suspected of having been the secret concocter of Mr. Lundy's motion; for nothing could possibly suit his game better than a direct vote on the execution of Riel. The Opposition leaders are now placed in a fatal dilemma. They must either disgust all their Protestant supporters by voting that Riel ought not to have been executed, or break with the Bleus. At the same time their fire will be prematurely drawn on the North-Western question, and the life will be taken out of the motion for inquiry into the cause of the rebellion, by which alone they have any chance of producing an effect upon the country. This is their merited punishment for having allowed themselves, or their organ, to be entrapped into such folly as an alliance with the Bleus on the subject of Riel's execution. No human being imagines that they are sincere in professing to believe that Riel was insane or that he had not a fair trial. Everybody sees that their motive is purely strategical, as well as that their strategy is very shallow. Their own language about Riel on the occasion of his first rebellion and his murder of Scott rises up in judgment against them. Their only wise and their only honest course was to leave Riel's unhappy corpse alone, let the Bleus attack the Government if they would, and reserve themselves for the great and genuine issue, to raise which is at once their fair advantage and their manifest duty.

ANY one whose unfortunate lot it is to wade through or even to skim the deluge of talk let loose in Parliament and crystallized in *Hansard* cannot but hope that this repertory of eloquence may be soon either abolished or remodelled. The expenditure on its preparation—some fifty thousand dollars—is not great for the work done, but the greater part of this work is useless; and while the saving to the country from doing away with it would not be very important, the saving in other ways would be immense. Those whose business it is to search for any grain of wheat that may be delivered from the parliamentary hopper would be spared the mostly vain sifting of bushels of chaff in order to find it—a labour which, however, it is true, is already done with more or less completeness by several newspapers. Some of these, in fact, sin almost as much as *Hansard*, but their *verbatim* reports are a part of their business, a dress, like *Hansard*, very often to the speaker's party or his constituency. This talking to one's constituency is, indeed, the main use of *Hansard*. A member has only to write out a speech—or get it written for him—and deliver it to the House, when, though it be addressed solely to his constituency, on a subject of no public interest, to which no newspaper would give space, it is at once printed *in extenso*, and, in the shape of extra copies, may be distributed all over the speaker's constituency, mainly at the expense of the country. So, direct encouragement is given to the nuisance of long speeches and borrowed eloquence; and the time of the House is wasted in