

under special legislation simply to keep them out of mischief—there is, possibly, some difference of opinion. It might be held, with some show of force, that it is out of our province to give advice to the Home Government in regard to the treatment of these men; but, I think, considering the peculiar and exceptional nature of the legislation under which they are imprisoned, considering the liberty of speech that ought to be allowed between a daughter country and a mother country, that we are quite justified in giving our opinion, and our not too pressing advice on this matter in the terms in which it is embodied in these resolutions. The hon. leader of the Opposition thinks they ought to be made stronger. I think perhaps it might have been better if the phraseology had been arranged so as to express the real state of the case more clearly—not to ask for clemency for these men, but to ask that they should have a trial, and that their offences should be established or they acquitted. As to the propriety of addressing the Home Government on that subject, I entertain no doubt. If I did, I would still desire to see the resolutions adopted by the House, because of the other things they contain; and as they cannot be amended in this particular, I would vote for them as they stand. The hon. leader of the Government referred to the Irish Roman Catholics as the only ones whose sympathy and votes he said were sought for in this connection by the leader of the Opposition. He seems to infer that nobody but Irish Roman Catholics take an interest in the affairs of that country. I can speak with perhaps some authority on this subject, as I am connected with both the Scotch Protestants of the North of Ireland and the Irish Roman Catholics of the South—and the Protestant Irishman of the North is as thorough an Irishman, I might even say as much a Fenian, in many of his views, as the Irishman of the South. It may seem strange to say so, but I know men of the most true blue North of Ireland blood just as thoroughly Irish, just as glad to see a little advantage taken of the British Government, who would glory just as much in acts of obstruction and home rule as any man in the South could do, and these men and their descendants, even of half Irish blood, take as much pleasure in laudable Irish movements as the Roman Catholics and pure Celts. I think every person who speaks in support of this motion, should say he has no sympathy with any of those crimes often, but I hope wrongly, imputed to the Land League. It is disgusting to every true Irishman that people who claim the name of Irishmen should so disgrace their nation and make it a byword. The assassination of fellow farmers and the mutilation of brute animals, are crimes which it is disgusting to see committed by men of Irish blood. We claim they are not true Irishmen, though perhaps of Irish birth and utterly unworthy of Irish sympathy. The member for Ottawa County wound up his remarks very appropriately by the well-known motto and prayer, "God save Ireland." We can all say that from our hearts, and do something more. We know that Providence makes use of human assistance in carrying out His ends. I think we may rejoice that we have on this occasion an opportunity of assisting Providence in His great and benevolent designs in regard to Ireland. If we can do anything tending to promote the salvation in a moral, material and political sense of that island, we may feel we have done something worthy of us as Canadian legislators.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex.) When the member for Victoria did me the honor, and I esteem it a great honor, of asking me to second his resolutions, I had not the slightest idea of the reception they would meet with in this House; and feeling that it might need some support, I addressed myself to the subject and prepared some notes. But I find from the unanimous tone from both sides of the House on this subject that much which I would have thought

necessary to have said under different circumstances, can properly indeed be spared this hon. House. I had thought it possible it would be necessary to defend the right of the Canadian Parliament to address Her Majesty on a subject affecting the welfare of the Empire; and I had prepared myself to prove, by precedent, that we were within our right in passing the resolutions of my hon. friend. I think that this matter nearly and deeply touches the interests of Canada as well as the Empire as a whole, and I must congratulate myself, as an Irishman to-night on seeing so many men of Irish blood and descent cropping up in this House, even the honorable and gallant gentleman, the member for Central Huron, has pulled for us a sprig from his genealogical tree, and has informed the House of his Irish descent on the maternal side. I am sure in future we will bear with him "when that rash humor which his mother gave him makes him forgetful." I am free to accept him as a brave Irishman, for I, for one, have never failed to admire his courage in dealing with his foes in Parliament or elsewhere. I regret the passing allusion to local politics which marred the harmony, as a whole, of the speech of the member for West Durham; and I, for one, if disposed to be critical, might take advantage of some expressions in it; I might remind the hon. gentleman of a resolution similar to the one we are discussing to-night, still it would be unworthy of me, as an Irishman, to meet a brother Irishman in that fashion, after listening to the lengthy speech for the benefit of Ireland, which he has addressed to this assembly to-day. It is indeed most satisfactory to me to find that the House is a unit in sympathy with the resolutions of my hon. friend from Victoria. It is more than I had anticipated, because I was led to suppose that some hon. gentlemen had certain doubts as to our right to address the Crown on the subject at all, and that others differed from us as to the view that Home Rule was possible in Ireland, and as to the claims of the gentlemen, some of them members of the Imperial Parliament, who are now suffering imprisonment for political offences to an immediate release or an immediate trial by a jury of their countrymen. For my part, knowing as I do, the history of my country, while I listened with pleasure to the speech of the hon. gentleman for West Durham, I think he scarcely went far enough back and scarcely located the core of the disease. He might have shown what is among the greatest causes of Irish grievances the deprivation of the Irish peasant of the ownership of, or of tribal rights in Irish land. I was glad to notice lately a speech of the Marquis of Salisbury, leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, in which he laid down as a policy for his party in case they attained power the purchase of the land rights of the landlords on the voluntary principle, and the sale of the land on reasonable terms as to price and time, to its peasant cultivators. That indeed would be a great remedy for such grievances. We, in this country often hear of Irish crimes, and I am satisfied there is often much exaggeration in the reports. I also believe we should make allowance for the people who suffered such wrongs so many hundreds of years. In speaking of them we are not speaking of a class of men who have had the education and the opportunity of the lowest class among us. We are dealing with a people who have been kept in a state of semi-serfdom for centuries, who have been deprived of the most common justice, and ground down under penal laws, such as will scarcely be believed by this House. Do we suppose that remedial legislation brought about in the 19th century can wipe out the wrongs of 700 years. The iron has sunk into the souls of the people. There is not a green hillside or sequestered valley that does not remind the Irish peasant of some wrong, some act of tyranny on the part of his oppressors. When we remember the wrongs they have treasured up in that unwritten history handed down from father to son