Beret Mar Jan

PEECH

DELIVERED AT THE

Dinner of the St. Patrick's Society,

TOROIJTO.

On the 17th of March, 1860.

IN RESPONSE TO THE SENTIMENT OF

THE IRISH RACE AT HOME AND ABROAD,"

BY WILLIAM HALLEY.

PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF A NUMBER OF FRIENDS.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :---

I rise to give a willing, but I fear a feeble and unequal response to the sentiment just announced in order from the chair. Several national and patriotic toasts have been already proposed, and ably responded to, and, no doubt, others will follow; but I cannot think any of them so much calculated to strike home to the seat of our national affections, our patriotism, and our pride, as this.

Love of country, love of the scenes of childhood, love of the soil from which we spring, is strong and enduring; but love of kind, love of blood and brotherhood, is, if possible, more potent and imperishable. This love at once invokes history and tradition, penetrates the misty realms of the past, chasing back enquiry to aboriginal conditions, migrating fortunes and primitive alliances. It also follows up and watches through the culminating and spreading epochs of a