

which has been proposed by my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue, despite the advice given him by the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). Now, Sir, I think that there ought not to be any need, on an occasion of this kind, to address this House where Home Rule exists in the full plenitude of its beneficence any question, any word, any statement in advocacy of the principle that is now being laid before us. I trust, Sir, that there are not, at all events, many in this House who do not approve of Home Rule for Ireland. I do not believe that there are many gentlemen in this House who would stand up before their constituents in any part of the country and declare that they did not desire that the Irish people in Ireland should enjoy the privileges that are enjoyed by Irish, and English, and Scotch, and French in the Dominion of Canada. I do not believe that any man in this House would go before his constituents and be listened to approvingly in the utterance of such sentiments. I trust, therefore, that there will be, at all events as regards this amendment of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue, unanimity or a strong majority in this House in its favor. I will say to those who may not believe in Home Rule for Ireland that, under existing circumstances, that question has become, you may say, a fixed factor in the politics of Great Britain. One of the greatest men in Ireland to-day, a member of the British Parliament, Justin McCarthy, has said in a letter recently published that this present measure now before the House, which, to use the words of Mr. Parnell himself, is one in which there are blots and blemishes, which must be removed ere it will be acceptable to the Irish people—I say Justin McCarthy has stated that in his opinion this Bill may not become law at present. But, Sir, as sure as there is a kind Providence which watches over the fate of nations, Ireland is destined to get justice in the matter of Home Rule. I would point out to those hon. gentlemen to whom I am now specially addressing myself, a statement made by a very distinguished statesman of England in 1880. I refer to Mr. Lowe, who had abandoned his former position with regard to the extension of the franchise, and who thus gave his reasons in a speech on his re-election for London University:

"You took me as your representative at a time when you knew that I differed from the mass of the Liberal party on the subject of the franchise. That was a kindness I shall never forget. What has happened with regard to that question of the franchise? Why, this. One-half of the subject has been settled by those with whom I acted at that time—the Tories themselves. You see that Sir Stafford Northcote has been complaining of the masses of people who have sprung up everywhere as if they were the dragon's teeth. But who sowed the dragon's teeth? This has to be said to the credit or discredit of the Tory Government—that this greater number of people have the franchise because the Tory Government, out-trumping the Whigs, gave it to them. Well, gentleman, now comes the question of the county franchise. I am a practical man. You know that I fought as long as there was a possibility of success, but I am now in this dilemma: if I go on any further I must unite with the Tories, who have already deceived and betrayed me—(laughter and cheers)—or else I must confess myself, as I humbly do, utterly beaten in this matter. I must confess that public opinion is entirely against me, and give up all opposition whatever. Gentlemen, I prefer the latter course. (Cheers). Politics are a practical science, and, as I have said from the first, what I desired was that the subject should be fairly brought before the country, and that we should have its decision upon the question. Well, it has been brought before the country in this election, and the decision of the Liberal party has been, so far as I know, absolutely unanimous. I, therefore, have nothing to do but to bow to that decision."

And, Mr. Speaker, what has taken place in the question referred to will take place with Home Rule. This has become a question of practical politics in the Imperial Parliament, and if this Bill of the Right Hon. Mr. Gladstone be not carried, the Tories will probably out-trump Mr. Gladstone at an early day, and a broader and more comprehensive Bill of Home Rule will be brought in by the Conservatives. I know it has been urged on many occasions that this question of Home Rule involves separation from the Empire. I have never believed that. I have given many years of study to this question in my own humble way, and I am

Mr. CURRAN.

convinced that the honor, the glory, the power and the prestige of England, Ireland and Scotland are bound up together. Just as in this country we cling to the prestige we have acquired by the joint exploits of the two great sections that make up our population, just as the English speaking people would now consent to allow the glory shed upon our history by our French Canadian brethren, from the days of Jacques Cartier to the present time, through their glorious struggle and achievements, recorded in *Les Relations des Jésuites* and in the opening pages of Garneau, I say, just as we could never allow that glory and that prestige to be taken away, so, with regard to the people of Ireland they feel that they have cast a halo of glory around the British Empire; they feel that they have embellished the literature of that Empire; they feel that their poets and their orators, their scholars and their statesmen, their men in every position of life, by their genius have enhanced the glory of that Empire. They feel, speaking the language of Richard Lalor Shiel, that on many a battle-field the blood of England, of Ireland, and of Scotland, has been shed together; in the same deep pits in many lands, their bodies have been deposited, and the green sward of spring now covers their commingled remains. The Irish people feel and know what they have contributed to the Empire, and they know what they would lose by total separation from that Empire; they know that England, Ireland and Scotland, as separate nations, could never possess that commanding influence in the world which they possess to-day. But the people of Ireland demand, and with God's blessing they will have, Home Rule there as we have Home Rule here; and in the words of the amendment that has been submitted by my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue, the result will be that peace and contentment will reign in the land, that the Irish people will be happy and prosperous, and that the bonds of union between Ireland, England and Scotland, will be strengthened, not weakened thereby, and the future prosperity of the Empire secured.

Mr. McMULLEN. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that it is right that any Irishman should get a groan in this House. I claim to be an Irishman just as much as the gentlemen who have already addressed the House on this question. I believe I am just as true an Irishman as any who sits within this Chamber. I was born on the old sod; I lived there for a good many years; I have visited it and travelled through it frequently. I love and reverence the green hills of Ireland just as much as any man in this House; and when I, in my humble way, rise to offer a few words in the interest of this important question I think I am just as fairly entitled to a hearing as any man who sits in this House. Now, Sir, I regret the course that hon. gentlemen opposite have deemed it proper to take on this occasion. I should have liked very much that the question had been received by hon. gentlemen opposite in the same spirit in which it was presented. I am quite sure the hon. leader of the Opposition took the position he did honestly and earnestly desirous of strengthening the hands of the Hon. Mr. Gladstone who has assumed the enormous task of endeavoring to secure Home Rule for Ireland. I believe hon. gentlemen opposite would have accepted the proposition had it not emanated from the hon. leader of the Opposition. If the hon. leader of the Government had presented that resolution, they would have held up their hands and yelled in joy that it had been presented to this House; but simply because the hon. leader of the Opposition brings it forward, after waiting for weeks—yes, for months—for hon. gentlemen opposite who have the majority of the members of this House at their backs, they refuse to support it. Why did they not take action themselves? Did they consider the question one of so little importance as to be not worthy of their attention? The hon. gentleman who has just sit down has told us that