

pure and high purpose, an industry that is only bounded by his health and endurance, a lofty eloquence and a crusader's enthusiasm to do something for the land of his fathers. Moreover, he will be the trusted and authoritative bearer of a message from the New World. Not alone as a great constitutional lawyer but also as the spectator of the birth and growth of a federal constitution, he will be able to give expert testimony in the great cause which he has called "the vital principle of local self-government." Should the Conservatives return to power he will have plenty of work cut out for him. Should Mr. Gladstone carry the country, no less would a heavy task devolve on the member for South Longford. The details of the Home Rule measure would have to be settled on. The value of Mr. Blake's advice to the Irish party in that case cannot be well overestimated. In all of his Home Rule speeches, though paying his tribute to the greatness of Gladstone, he has yet criticised acutely that statesman's rough sketch of the Home Rule plan. He has exhibited decided hostility to any scheme which proposed to exclude Ireland from representation in the Imperial Parliament. Indeed to Canadian federalists this part of Mr. Gladstone's plan is totally unorthodox, and leads them to the perhaps impertinent suspicion that old country statesmen are after all, but 'prentice hands at constitution building.

That it should be proposed for a moment to give Ireland no voice in the legislature that shapes the fiscal policy of the country, that decides for peace or war, and indeed, deals with all the greater interests of the Empire, is to Canadian students of constitutionalism simply incredible. That would be establishing an Irish griev-

ance with a vengeance! Are we then to let Irishmen meddle with the domestic concerns of Englishmen and Scotchmen, while they will not allow these to lay a finger on Irish matters? we hear one ask. The answer to this question is that Home Rule is only the initial step of a great movement. Each section of the British Isles will, probably, in the very near future be furnished with a local legislature, and the central Parliament will then deal only with those higher questions of policy which every member of the Empire ought to have some voice in directing and moulding.

In the discussion of a subject like this, the member for South Longford should, and I think will, take a prominent and influential part. There may be no thought or no prospect of leadership for him, but from what limited knowledge of English and Irish public men I have gleaned, I cannot help thinking that despite the fact that he is sailing into new seas his unusual intellectual courage and capacity will gain him high rank amid his new associates.

No true Canadian can see Edward Blake turn from our shores without a twinge of regret and the question of the duration of his absence becomes an important one. Will Imperial affairs engross the remainder of his days, or will he return to his native land haloed with the honor of having shared in the accomplishment of the greatest constitutional change since England herself under De Montfort's guidance struck the first rude model of popular government? These would be indeed idle speculations, but, win or lose, Canadians will follow his career in the larger field where he is now gone, and will welcome him back to Canada when the battle being won he can lay his armor aside.