

first receive the approbation of the Imperial House. Of course much of this strictly local business has been put in the hands of the county councils, but even today the draining of a river or the construction of sewer in Dublin must first be authorized in London. Such a system of government has its evils. Matters of national importance have been held up for days, perhaps for weeks, at a time, while petty affairs have occupied the attention of the House—and contrariwise, people in certain parts of Ireland have suffered great inconvenience, and have been put to considerable expense because needed improvements were delayed. The Irish Parliament will do away with this cause of complaint. It will deal with purely Irish affairs and everyone will be satisfied. It will control its own expenditure thus insuring a better and more up-to-date Ireland.

It is the intention of the government, to give Ireland control of her customs. Such an act would be only just, as it would give the country an opportunity to encourage manufacturing and to make advantageous commercial treaties with other countries.

The bitter opponents of Home Rule claim that such a measure will mean Rome Rule—and that the Catholic majority will persecute the Protestant minority. Now, the English government, during the past half century or more, has not passed a law affecting the Catholic Church in Ireland or the Irish people without first consulting the Pope—and yet the Orangemen have continued to prosper in Ireland. As for the charge of bigotry and persecution on the part of Catholics, it is nonsensical. Sir Horace Plunkett says: "My own experience distinctly proves that it is no disadvantage to a man to be a Protestant in Ireland and that, where opposition is shown by Roman Catholics, it is almost invariably on political, social or agrarian, but not on religious grounds." No, Irish Catholics will not treat their non-Catholic fellows with injustice—rather will they make overtures of friendship—and, address them thus:

Come, pledge again thy heart and hand,
 One grip that ne'er shall sever,
 Our watchword be—"Our native land."
 Our motto—"Love for ever."

And let the Orange lily be
 Thy badge, my patriot brother;
 The everlasting Green for me;
 And we for one another.

J. A. TALLON, '14.