

the newspaper that was willing to accept his statements. The sting of the charge lay in the fact that they were accused of accepting pay from an English party and thus sacrificing their independence and throwing to the winds the principles they have professed for the last thirteen years. It must have been gratifying to them to hear Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir Vernon Harcourt and others bear testimony to their belief that the charge was false. Every one of these great men frankly and willingly and unreservedly acknowledged their abhorrence of such warfare and their confidence in the incorruptibility of the Irish members.

But the incipient scene has been well-nigh forgotten. Mr. Sexton brands Viscount Wolmer's statement as an audacious and calumnious falsehood, quotes from "*The Times*," and moves that the article in that journal is a "gross and scandalous breach of the privileges of the House." Now the excitement is at white heat. Ministerialists and Irishmen cheer vehemently while the Opposition and Liberal-Unionists are silent. Mr. Sexton walks down the aisle with "*The Times*" in his hand. For a moment there is silence as the clerk at the table reads the article slowly and distinctly. Then there is another mighty burst as the Leader of the House rises, but in an instant all is silent and the Greatest Man in the House begins to speak. During all the noise and excitement Mr. Gladstone has been sitting with his hand at his ear, trying to catch every word that is said, and now he is to give the word that will make or mar the nation. Every eye is bent on him and every ear strained to catch his every word. But it was not necessary to strain the ear. That wonderful voice has not yet lost its full, resonant, musical tone but is strong enough to be heard distinctly even in the distant Members' Gallery. At first it was just the slightest bit husky, but after a sentence or two it was as clear and distinct as a bell. His first words were directed towards the luckless lord whose impudent audacity had led to all the trouble. And what a castigation it was! What delicious irony! What withering scorn! The House, Liberals and Conservatives alike, fairly rocked with laughter. It was simply marvellous and wonderful to behold. Then turning to the article of "*The Times*" he declared that