

If the bill had been sent up a second time, of course the Lords would have repeated their excuses that it had not been submitted to the country, and they would have said again that the bill had not been sufficiently discussed, because the Tory party would have obstructed it more successfully in the second session even than in the first, having the training of the first session as a matter of advantage. The Lords would have repeated their former pretexts, the bill would have been thrown out again, and the session would have been wasted; no British reforms would have been carried, the British electors would have been discontented, a section of the Liberal party would have been chilled, the unity of that party would have been injured, and the Home Rule cause to a great and indefinite degree would have been weaker than it is to-day. A wise course was pursued, and I am of opinion that, even if the Government had simply gone to the country at the next election asking the people to reaffirm the Home Rule Bill and not presenting a resolution against the Lords, that would be an unsafe course; because even if there were at the next election a majority for Home Rule the Lords, who are never at a loss for good excuses or bad excuses as the case may be, would have said: "It is true this bill was submitted to the country, it is true you have a majority, but when you went to the country you submitted to the people other measures as well as this, but they wanted the other measures; they did not want this bill, and you are not entitled to conclude a majority on other measures as being a majority on the Home Rule Bill." No, but a clear and decisive course has been taken, for the Government have now resolved not only to go to the country again upon the Home Rule Bill within a very limited time to ask the people to declare once more that the principle affirmed in 1893 shall now be carried into effect, but they are going to the country with a resolution of the House of Commons declaring that the power of the House of Lords shall not again be used to defeat the will of the people, neither upon Home Rule for Ireland or upon any other measure.

#### IRELAND, THE TENANTS AND THE LORDS.

The question of the House of Lords, and I think, fellow-countrymen, you are very indifferent whether there is a House of Lords or not so long as the power to do wrong to Ireland is taken away from them, but there may be many Englishmen who would not be ready to abolish the House of Lords, the English having a taste for ancient law-makers, but would yet be willing to curb their power to defeat the will of the people; and, therefore, I think, from the practical point of view that in order to obtain a majority sufficient to teach the House of Lords that the will of the people must prevail, the Government have adopted the most judicious course in resolving to go to the country upon the question that when the Commons, the representative Chamber, pass any bill, and adhere to the bill, that—though the Lords may suggest amendments—that that bill shall pass into law in the form affirmed by the Commons. I believe that the most judicious course has been taken, and regarding the whole situation with what experience I have, I say that, considering the circumstances, and weighing all the obstacles, the Liberal party, upon the question of Home Rule, have proceeded with all the diligence, with all the good faith, with all the energy that circumstances rendered possible, and that they proceeded in the mode most likely to secure the earliest and most sure success. Before I conclude, I wish to say that the Liberals have done something more than proceed upon the Home Rule question. They appointed the Evicted Tenants' Commission, and in the second of their two sessions,

having dealt with the financial business of the year, and with that affecting the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, they passed through the House of Commons the Evicted Tenants' Bill—not a perfect bill. Few bills are perfect, and I think the character of perfection could hardly be attributed to any British bill for Ireland, but at any rate it was a bill, even as it stood, which would have settled nine-tenths of the evicted tenants' question at once, and the rest of it in a little time. The Lords threw out the bill. The Government are no more to blame for the act of the Lords on that bill than they are for the act of the Lords upon the greater and more important measure. The Government have declared the Evicted Tenants' Bill to be urgent—to be necessary in the interests of the government of Ireland, and that being so, it will be their duty again at the earliest practicable date to challenge the judgment of the Lords upon it. The Government have done more—they have appointed a committee to examine the whole Irish land question.

That bill will be brought before the House of Commons in the forthcoming session. I believe it will be found that it will be swept through the House of Commons by a majority sufficient to persuade the Lords, especially under the pressure of the impending general election, that the wisest course for them will be, with all possible speed, to pass that bill into law.

#### ONLY ONE CLOUD IN THE IRISH SKY.

There is only one dark cloud in our sky, only one danger threatens. We hear murmurings and threatenings of dissension that every Irishman will take to his heart. The force of our motto is that "Unity is strength." We are told in letters and speeches that Ireland will be asked to return a majority to support one man or his policy or his views. I will name no man. I will not attribute to any man an unpatriotic intention; but I will say, and especially after recent experiences, I do not believe that Ireland ever will return a majority to support any man or the views or the policy of any man. Ireland believes that there is safety in a multitude of counsellors. Ireland will adhere to the course through which her cause has been advanced through many difficulties and through many trials. I will not at the present stage attribute to any one the intention to do anything against the interest of the country, but if it were possible that the representatives of the people who have been faithful to their mandate, faithful in the House of Commons, faithful to the country, should be attacked and threatened with expulsion from public life because they have sustained the chairman of the party, the committee of the party and the party itself, then I say that the country, so far from sustaining any attack, such an attack could not fail to recoil upon any one who would make it. I trust, therefore, that public opinion will declare itself with no uncertain sound, that the people will indicate their determination that the constituencies shall freely return in consultation with the Irish party the best men that they can find; that these men, each acting upon his conscience and independent judgment, shall determine the questions that come before them in their Irish party; that these questions when they are determined, the judgment shall be accepted by every man of that party and that the party in future, as in its most glorious times in the past, shall go forward as a united party. Fellow-countrymen, we are in the last and most critical stage, one advance beyond which brings us the point of ultimate victory. If the Irish representatives fail to conceive and to perform the great duty

that lies upon them, if the Irish people fail to impose that duty upon them by the legitimate force of public opinion, then I say that cause, even at the point of victory, may sink, and may possibly sink beyond the reach of recovery for many a day. But if the Irish party, I as hope, and as I believe and as I expect, stand together, and inspired by the unity of an ancient and of a determined people stand together in all emergencies remembering that the things on which they are united are vast and great compared to the trifle as to which they may differ, remembering that they are struggling for the most supreme rights, for the most sacred interests of a people, then I believe you will soon obtain the sovereign cure for all the ills of Ireland—the right to make her own laws, and the right to have her own laws administered and her own resources applied with native care and native skill to the peace and welfare of the people.

#### HEALY AND DILLON.

Messrs. Healy and Dillon spoke at Meagherafelt. After pointing with satisfaction to the fact that many Orangemen of Ulster were adopting the land views which a few years ago were condemned as treason Mr. Healy made a stirring appeal for support:

We are entering on the final time of struggle on the Home Rule question. We have in office a Government that, I believe in my heart, means honestly and fairly by Ireland. (Cheers.) You have in office a Chief Secretary who—no body criticises him more than I do—means, I believe, honestly and fairly and squarely and uprightly by the Irish people (cheers), and while I criticise the moderation of his administration I firmly believe that the farmers of Ireland will not be disappointed in this Land Bill that he is going to introduce for you (cheers), and further I believe that they will not be disappointed in the energy and determination with which he will push the Bill through the House of Commons. (Cheers.) Accordingly we must here in Ulster especially, strengthen his hands, and give the Bill of which he will be in charge that momentum and steam that will carry it safely through Parliament, and when that work is finished we shall come before you again and ask you to return us once more to Parliament, and send humbugs like Lea about their business. (Cheers.) Before that day comes there will be a revision of the voters' list in South Derry. Your votes are now the weapons with which you must work for your country. Do not grudge a little time given in the revision courts, though it may be harvest time. (Cheers.) Many a night your members have to spend in the House of Commons in your service, so do not grudge spending a few hours at the revision for the sake of the old land. (Cheers.) You have not been disappointed in the work that has been done for you in the last fifteen years. There is not a man in the crowd who cannot lay his hand on his heart and say that: "The work that has been done in the last fifteen years has made me a better and happier man." (Cheers.) Is there a man who can say that the work has been thrown away or lost? (Cries of "No, no.")

DON'T, THEN, BECOME SELFISH, don't forget your neighbour, don't forget the evicted tenants. (Cheers.) You may be masters of your own holdings, but don't forget the wounded soldiers who fought for you and won the battle. (Cheers.) Push on, standing brother with brother, farmer with farmer, laborer with laborer, and before long, with the help of God, this county of Derry, this province of Ulster, will throw in its lot and unite in the grand army of nationality that will bring this long struggle of centuries to a glorious and magnificent termination. (Prolonged cheering.)

Mr. John Dillon, who next addressed the meeting, in the course of a lengthy speech spoke as follows:

Proud am I indeed to think that Derry, this old historic county, a county which will for ever remain illustrious in the annals of Irish patriotism, if for no other reason than because it gave birth to John Mitchell—(loud cheers)—proud am I from the platform to be in a position to say to-day that I have read with pride and gratification and a sense of renewed strength the resolutions passed by every branch of the Federation in this division, of confidence in the Irish Party. (Loud cheers.) That party does enjoy the confidence of the people of South Derry. (Cheers.) Without that confidence it would be idle for us or for any Irish Party to pretend to you that we could cross the sea and fight your battle effectually in the House of Commons. (Cheers, and cries of "You have our confidence.") Gentlemen, I believe that never in the history of a people has there existed a more purely Democratic party than the Irish party. (Hear, hear.) We are the creation of the people. We owe every element of strength which we have possessed to the people of this country. We display it when we first came into existence and drove out of the representation of the country what I have been blamed for calling "the so-called respectables" (loud cheers), and I say it will be an evil day for the Irish people when they go back to the so-called respectables. (Hear, hear.) In a happy day for Ireland you decided to return a Democratic party (cheers), a party who depended for their existence from week to week and from day to day on your confidence and on the assurance of your support. (A Voice—"You have it," cheers.) Never in the history of a people, in my judgment, has there been a party so truly in touch with the workingmen of a country as this Irish Party has been in touch with you. (Cheers.) For it is the literal fact that all that we have done for Ireland—and I claim we have done for our country such as no party ever did for any country—(cheers)—we have been enabled to do solely and only by the knowledge which was planted in the minds of the people of England that at our backs was a united people who had in us the utmost confidence. (Cheers.) That condition of affairs entails upon the people a responsibility, a serious and great responsibility, which they cannot cast off. The Irish Party have discharged their duty, although, perhaps, I ought not to say what I am going to say, being a member of that party myself, but I claim that we have discharged our duty to you; and as we are a Democratic party, and as we are faithful to you, so then YOUR DUTY IS TO BE FAITHFUL TO US. (Cheers.) To do nothing and to say nothing which can strike down our arms or weaken them in the fight which we will have to wage for you in the Parliament of England.

Mr. John Pinkerton, M.P., who was received with great cheering, said he was proud to be there that day at the great National demonstration. When they had John Dillon and Tim Healy standing side by side (cheers), fighting the cause of the Irish party, they might be certain of success (cheers). There was not an Orangeman in Ulster who was not more indebted to Mr. Dillon and Mr. Healy than to all the Colonel Saunders that ever lived. (Cheers.)

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