THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

THE CONVENTION.

THE DELEGATES AND THE RESOLUTIONS.

The annual Convention of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain commenced its sittings in the Rotundo on Monday, 21st August, at ten o'clock a.m. Dr. Commins, B.L., Liverpool, president, occupied the chair. The following were present:—

Messrs Isaac Butt, Q.C., M.P.; C S Parnell, M.P.; J G Biggar, M. P.; Chevalier O'Clery, M.P.; P Mulhall, J Denvir, J Veldon, C Meagher, D Crilly, A Commins, B L, LL D, Liverpool; S Barrow, Jarrowon-Tyne; T Maloney, G Keogh, Stafford; E Stone, Blackhill; P M'Kinley, St Helen's; L Gillooly, Warrington; P Doyle, Blackburn; J Mallon, Preston; F. H O'Donnoll, J Coffey, J C Howe, London; P. Carey, Barnsley; F. Travers, Leeds; P. M'Guiggan, Sunderland; M Kerrigan, Eccles and Patricroft; J Kavanagh, Houghton Lepring; P O'Neill, Leigh; P Donnelly, Batley; D M'Gowan, Bishop-Auckland; J M'Kenny,—M'Carten, Durham; J Barry, T Glynn, W F. Meany,—Feeney, Manchester; T Healy, L Barry, B M'Anulty, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J Ferguson, T. Lenahan, T J Sharkey, Glasgow; G J Healy, T C; F M'Cormack, T C; J Droogan, Bolton;———, Bingley: P Robinson, D Trainor, Hull; M M Dunne, Sheffield; J Gillon, Bedlington; R Philbin, Stone; J Rowen, York; R J Carleton, Johnstone; H M'Glynn, Tunstall; J M'Kenna, T Clancy, P Kenna, Dundee; P J Slevin, Wigan; E Moran, Chester; J Mackle, Barrow-in-Furness; J Ward, Blyth; J Walsh, Crewe; P D Corcoran, Birkenhead.

The following annual report, with balance-sheet annexed, was presented by Captain Kirwan and Mr. John Barry, and unanimously passed:

This year the annual report of the Confederate Association is submitted for your approval somewhat later than usual. You are, however, aware that the delay has been intentional. Your executive, acting under your authority, postponed your annual meeting from June to August, in order that you might assemble in this city. The object of this delay has been of a dual nature. In the first place it was thought desirable to bring the power and influence of your organisation before the Irish people, and to assure them that the Irish in Great Britain are loyal to the principle laid down at the Conference of 1873. You have ever accepted as a political axiom the right of the Irish at home to lead and the duty of the Irish abroad to follow. You have loyally bowed to the will of the people of this country, and have always expressed your readiness to follow in the ascertained footsteps of your countrymen at home. Their policy is your policy. Your motto is union amongst Irishmen, and to secure that union some of your associates have faithfully laboured in our ranks, while holding individual opinions which are not in harmony with the majority. To place this fact before the Irish people is one of the reasons you meet in Dublin to-day, and your Executive is, too, aware that you will in the future, as in the past, adopt any means which the Irish people think prudent to pursue in order to obtain the right of Irish laws being made by Irishmen. In the second place, your meeting in Dublin will conjure up historical reminiscences. This is the first Convention which has been held in Ireland these eighty-four years. This is a testimony of the exceptional legislation to which Ireland is subjected. You are British delegates. You assemble here to conduct your business within the limit of the law, the provision of which you only evade by being residents in Great Britain. Had you been Irish delegates you would be liable to arrest, for British law in this country is formed to destroy that strength which comes of united action. In England we can confederate in Ireland the people cannot combine their forces. You, however, are citizens of Great Britain and enjoy the privileges which belong to men living under the British Constitution, and you meet here to-day to testify by your presence that British rule in this country is not formed on the basis of the British Constitution, and that your Convention—legal while British, illegal if Irish—is a proof of the coercive legislation to which Irishmen are subjected. You place before the world the fact that the Irishmen in Great Britain, enjoy rights which are denied your countrymen at home, but that the possession of these rights has not destroyed your fidelity to the principles of Irish nationality, and that absence and prosperity only make you grow fonder of this dear old land.

During the year '75-76 your executive council met twice, once in November and again to-day. Your supplementary executive, however, met fourteen times. When the resolutions passed at these meetings were of a great nature they were published in the official columns of the *United Irishmun*, and if affecting the association or branches of our association only, their contents were made known through the medium of our private reports. Of these reports 10,242 were issued during the year, exclusive of 4,721 letters, which were written from the executive offices during the same period. Since the abolition of the district system each association has been encouraged to work its own neighborhood, and in order to facilitate the doings of this, your excutive has from time to time forwarded handbills for distribution in towns into which the Home Rule movement has not penetrated. Their efforts has not been unproductive of good. During the year new associations have opened at Ashton-under-Lyne, Ballieston, Bingley, Birkenhead, Chester, Coatbridge, Coundon, Crofthead, Eastmuir, Johnstone, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Lochee, Merthyr-Tydvil, New Port, Nottingham (No. 2 Branch), Sheldon, Shrewsbury, Skelmersdale, Stone, South Shields, and Whitehaven. In all 25 new branches were opened during the year 1875-76, while only 15 new branches were opened in the year '74-75. During the last year associations and branches were revived at Batty, Bristall, Blackburn (No. 2), Burnley, Burslem, Crook, Leigh, Ormskirk, Sheffield, Tunstall, and Wigan. In all there were 11 branches revived during '75-76 as against 15 during '74 75. This falling off in the revival of branches is simply owing to the increased prosperits of the associations at large, and that proportionately fewer branches died during the last year than the year before. Notwithstanding the efforts of your executive, however, we are obliged to record the death of your associations at Altrinchan, Birmingham, Bristoll, Cardiff No. 2, Consett, Dumbarton, Eastwood, Edinburgh, Gorton, Hebburn-on-Tyne (No. 2 Branch), Port-Glasgow, and Wednesbury. In all 15 branches have fallen away during the year. The cause, however, is easily accounted for. It is not in any way owing to the want of loyalty of the Irish people in those towns to the principle of the Home Rule movement, but it is simply owing to the pecuniary difficulties under which our executive has labored. Had we the means of frevuently visiting the different localities in which we have up to the present failed to consolidate, there would be no occasion to be compelled to place before you the record of their demise. Although we have abundant testimony to prove that the Irish in Great Britain are with us in the struggle, yet in all great organisations there are weak points as well as strong. Success upon all occasions we cannot expect, but your executive believes that with the impetus this meeting will give the Home Rule cause in Great Britain there will be additional means subscribed to enable them to pursue a more vigorous course than that which we have up to the present been forced to adopt. But the record of the gross work amongst the branches is still encouraging. In all 25 new branches were opened, while eleven that had fallen away the previous year were revived. This makes 36 new branches which your executive brought into existence during the year. The loss has been 15 branches dead, which leaves a gain of 21 new branches in your favour.

During the year '75-'76 eighty-four public meetings were attended and lectures given under the auspices of the executive. This does not include meetings held in Glasgow, London, Manchester and other towns, with which your executive, while fully sympathising, yet had no direct responsibility to discharge. The number of meetings is certainly far below the standard which is necessary for the prosecution of the work of organisation with vigour, and the time is now come when we expect the aid of some of the Irish Home Rule members of Parliament, whose general assistance up to the present we have but partially received. In May, '75, 65 branches sent report and levy to the executive offices, while in May, '76, 182 branches sent in similar returns. Much of this success is attributable to the method of voluntary canvassing which many of the associations have pursued. All our experience points to the fact that our people are with us in this struggle, and that they will give their financial assistance and political influence to sustain our cause when asked.

The returns just read prove this on the one hand and our political triumphs during the year prove it on the other. No matter how poor the association may be, yet it commands the Irish vote. The strength of your organisation cannot be tested by your mere financial returns, for the voluntary efforts you receive relieve us from considerable expenditure. It may too be necessary to remind the public that each association has its private expenditure, and that, taking the Confederation at large, there cannot be less than £3,000 a year spent in Great Britain in advancing the interests of the Home Rule cause. Most of the large towns in England and Scotland have now their Home Rule halls, their Home Rule T.C., and many of them their Home Rule M.P. Your organisation has created a third distinct party in the State. It eschews both Liberalism and Conservatism, and exercises its influence only to advance the interest of the Irish National cause. This was proved by the victories which your associations scored at Burnley and at Manchester. You have already been informed of those successes. The Irish people were indifferent to party, and pursued a policy of independent opposition until the candidates accepted their terms. The history of your victories in those two towns has now become a part of the history of this movement, and has forced British publicists to admit that your organisation is a power in the land. There are at least 35 boroughs in Great Britain where you have as much influence as you have at Manchester and at Burnley, and recent events at Leeds have demonstrated that that influence will be exercised for the advantage of the Irish National cause alone. Your organisation has control over 150,000 Irish electors, enough, as we have often said, to decide the fate of a Ministry, and to mould British public opinion in an Irish cast. You may be poor, but you are powerful. The people are with you. They have already flocked to your standard and present an unbroken front to their politically hostile foes. Victory is smiling upon your banner, and "Excelsior" is emblazoned upon its folds.

The following resolutions were adopted and recorded by the Convention:—

I. That the Executive and the Confederation officers be *ex-officio* members of the General Council.

II. That all members of the Supplementary Executive present at this meeting be entitled to vote.

III. That the Home Rule League be empowered to send from Ireland two members to each General Council meeting.

IV. That the time has come when it is advisable that the central offices be moved to London.

V. That ten members of the Executive Council be nominated by the members of the General Council, those ten to elect three more, who, with the two to be appointed by the Home Rule League shall form the Executive.

VI. That so much of Rule No. 10 as provides for the election of a Supplementary Executive be rescinded.

VII. That No. 7 of the General Laws be amended to read as follows:—"That all organised bodies in connection with the Irish Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain be styled associations; and that wherever a recognised association shall be established in any electorial district no second association shall be established in that district without the previous permission of the council of the local association and the Executive of the Confederation, but that as many branches of these associations as may be necessary can be opened in an electoral district, but all such branches must be subject to a general council of such local association, formed of representatives of the various branches, with general president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary elected at a general meeting of all the branches specially summoned for that purpose"; provided nevertheless that nothing in this rule shall exclude the Executive of the Confederation from the fullest intercourse and communication with the individual local branches.

VIII. That No. 9 of the General Laws be amended to read as follows:—"That the Irish Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain be governed by a general council to be elected by the local associations. Associations of under 100 members to have one representative; between 100 and 200 members, two representatives; over 200 members, three representatives; but this number may be changed by vote of the general council."

IX. That the number of vice-presidents be increased to five.

X. That the associations and branches elect their officers twice a year, in January and July.

XI. That in the opinion of this meeting, before adopting a course of action that *may* become necessary—namely, withdrawal—it will be expedient for the Irish members to adopt a much more determined attitude in the House of Commons upon all questions in which Ireland is concerned, so that the British people may be induced to adopt the principle of division of labour in government.

XII. That we have every confidence in our great leader Isaac Butt; that we rely on his genius and determination, and give him our continued allegiance.

The meeting, at a late hour, adjourned till ten o'clock on Tuesday morning.

THE CONVENTION—SECOND DAY.

On Tuesday morning the Convention re-assembled in the small Concert-room, Rotundo. Dr. Commins, of Liverpool, presided, and the same delegates were present as on the previous day.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

Proposed by Mr. T. J. Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Keogh, and unanimously carried:—

"That Mr. Butt be elected President of the Irish Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain for the coming year.

"That J. Ferguson, Esq., Glasgow; B. M'Anulty, Esq., Newcastle-on-Tyne; F. H. O'Donnell, Esq., London; C. S. Parnell, Esq., M.P.; and J. G. Biggar, Esq., M.P., be elected vice-presidents of the Confederation for the coming year.

"That F. H. O'Donnell, Esq., be elected honorary secretary of the Confederation for the coming year.

Proposed by Mr. John Barry, seconded by F. H. O'Donnell, and carried unanimously:—

"That we feel that the fact of your being able to hold meetings of representatives of English associations without violating any law, while all meetings of Irish representatives are prohibited under severe penalties from assembling, very strikingly and painfully impresses on us the nature of the coercion under which the national opinion of Ireland is kept down.

"That we feel still more strongly the injustice done to the Irish people by the law which deprives them of the right of having and bearing arms, a right enjoyed by the people of England and Scotland, a right which is secured in England and Scotland by the Declaration of Rights adopted by the Revolution, and by the acts of settlement of the crown, and which has been recognised by all authorities on English law as an essential part of the constitution."

Proposed by Mr. T. J. Sharkey, seconded by Mr. Butt, M.P., and unanimously resolved:—

"That, in the opinion of the Conference, the time has come for the organization of the Irish constituencies by means of the formation of branches of the Home Rule League in every electoral district of Ireland."

Proposed by Mr. P. Mulhall, seconded by Mr. C. Meagher, and unanimously resolved:—

"That in the opinion of this Conference the policy pursued by the *United Irishman* newspaper in its advocacy of Home Rule is a wise, able, and judicious policy, and we, the delegate here assembled, in endorsing that policy pledges ourselves to do our utmost to support and spread the *United Irishman* through all our branches."

Proposed by Mr. P. M'Kinley, seconded by Mr. R. J. Carleton, and resolved:—

"That the Executive meet at least every three months, that three form a quorum, and that the president, vice-presidents, and the hon. sec. be *ex-officio* members of the Executive."

The following gentlemen were elected on the Executive for the ensuing year:—

Messrs L Barry, T J Sharkey, G J Healy, D Crilly, T Glynn, J C Howe, J Coffey, T Clancy, J Trainor, T Moloney.

It was proposed by Mr. J. Mockle, seconded by Mr. H. M'Glynn, and resolved:—

"That it be recommended to the Executive, should any vacancy occur in that body during the year, that the unsuccessful candidate having the greater number of votes be elected to fill that vacancy."

Votes of thanks to the retiring president, Dr. Commins, the retiring hon. sec., Mr. John Barry, Mr. F. Byrne, were passed with acclamation.

On the motion of Mr. Barry, seconded by Mr. Mallon, it was resolved:—

"That the next annual general council meeting be held in Liverpool."

The proceedings then terminated.

BANQUET TO THE DELEGATES.

EXTRAORDINARY GOVERNMENT OUTRAGE.

(ABRIDGED FROM THE FREEMAN.)

On Tuesday evening the Irish Home Rule League entertained the Council of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain and the English delegates at a banquet in the Ancient Concert Rooms. Nearly two hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner in the great hall, for the whole length of which ran three tiers of tables.

Mr. Isaac Butt, Q C., M.P., presided at the head table, and the vice-presidents were—Messrs. W. H. O'Sullivan, M.P., J. G. Biggar, M.P., and Major O'Gorman, M.P., On the chairman's right sat Dr. Commins, Liperpool, President of the Home Rule Confederation; Messrs R. Power, M.P.; C. S. Parnell, M.P.; and P. J. Plunkett. On his left sat Rev. Dr. De Thuruy, Bingley, Yorkshire; and Father O'Reilly, , P.P., Kingscourt, county Cavan; Messrs. Mitchell Henry, M.P.; Charles Dawson, High Sheriff of Limerick; and J Ferguson, Glasgow. Amongst the other gentlemen present were:—

William Adams, T. C. Tullamore; P. M'Cabe Fay, W F Moloney, G. Barry, T.C., Cork; John Burns, M Costello, P L G, Edenderry; T A P Mapother, J P, Kilteevan; John O Blunden, Professor, Casey, M R I A; M Shields, Pomeroy; J B Murtagh, J C Howe, London; Wm. Meagher, T C; T D Sullivan, A O'Conor Eccles, Roscommon; C J Fay, M P; M Hearn, Ballinrobe; J Mulligan, George Fottrell, James Cooper, Mill-street, county Cork; William Bury, T C; R Power, M.P.; A E Lesage, J Reilly, T C; P J Foley, London; G Austin, T C; Dr M'Closkey, Derry; William Dillon, R B Butt, Hon Judge Little, Thomas Ryan, Patrick Donegan, B M'Anulty, C M'Donough, Derry; Rev P F Downes, P P, New Brunswick, U S A; Alderman O'Gorman, do, do; Patrick Claffey, Richard M'Lowery, E A Hayden, T C; Rev P O'Reilly, P P, Kingscourt; Joseph P Donnelly, J J Burke, P L G; H M'Crossan B L; J P M'Alister, P Mulhall, John Denvir, J Veldon, C Meagher, D Crilly, Liverpool; S Barrow, Jarrow-on-Tyne: T Moloney, G Keogh, Stafford; E Stone, Blackhill; P M'Kinley, St Helens; L Gillooly; Warrington; P Doyle, Blacklion; J Mallow, Preston; F H O'Donnell, London; J Coffey, J Howe, London; P Carey, Barnsley; F Travers, Leeds; P M'Guiggan, Sunderland; M Kerrigan, Eccles; J Kavanagh, Haughton Lesping; P O'Neill, Leigh; P Donnelly, Baxley; Dr D M'Gowan, Bishop of Auckland; J M'Kenny,—M'Cartan, Durham; J Barry, T Glynn, W F Meany, B M'Anulty, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J Ferguson, L Lenahan, T J Sharkey, Glasgow; C G Healy, T C; F M'Cormack, J Droogan, Bolton; P Robinson, D Trainor, Hull; M Dunne, Sheffield; J Gillon, Bedlington; R Phibbin, Hone; J Rowen, York; R J Carleton, Johnstone; H M'Glynn, Dunstall; J M'Kenna, T Clancy, P Kenn, Dundee; P J Slevin, Wigan; E Moran, Chester; J Mackie, Barrow-on-Furness; J Ward, Blyth; J Walsh, Crewe; P D Corcoran, Birkenhead; B M'Avroy, Patrick C Sherry, Eastminster; J Kettle, P L G, Artane, &c.

The chairman in proposing the first toast, said his first duty was to express his deep thankfulness to those who had placed him in the proud position of presiding over that entertainment, and his highest duty was on behalf of the Irish nation to welcome to that festive board their English friends who had honoured them with their presence (loud applause). When he said their English friends he would have been very forgetful of the ties of private friendship and the obligations of public duty if he had not intended to include in that word many of their Scotch friends (hear, hear, and applause). He might have occasion to make some political allusions in the course of the toasts which it would be his privilege to propose in the course of the evening, and he did not doubt that there would be political allusions in the course of the replies, but he rejoiced more that evening in having achieved a great political success, and they might believe him that the political success achieved during the last few days would tell for the Home Rule cause in a way that its enemies did not anticipate, except it might be said that they did so from their fears (applause and laughter). He gave the toast of "The Queen, Lords, and Commons of Ireland."

The toast was received with applause.

The chairman again rose and said—The next toast is one that will certainly command at once an enthusiastic reception—it is "The Prosperity of Ireland" (loud applause). In more fashionable assemblies than this it has been the habit to associate that toast with the office and name of the Lord Lieutenant [hear, hear]. I mean no disrespect to the nobleman who is now at the head of Irish affairs, or, rather, is supposed to be [applause and laughter] if I decline to associate his office with that toast [hear, hear, and applause].

A Voice—You are at the head of Irish affairs yourself [renewed applause].

The chairman—Unfortunately the office of Lord Lieutenant implies here a government hostile to the interests, as it is to the feelings, of the Irish nation. The evil that lies at the root of all Irish government is that there are two parties in Ireland—the one is the Castle of Dublin and the other the instincts, the passions and the strong feelings of the Irish nation (applause). For the nobleman who presides over the Castle personally I entertain the highest respect. I cannot help thinking that with the many generous feelings he has often displayed he himself cannot but reflect sometimes how much prouder his position would be if he came down through Dame-street to College-green to open a session of the Irish parliament there [applause]. I give you "Prosperity to Ireland," with the promise that when the Lord Lieutenant comes down to open the parliament in College green we then will be glad to associate him with the toast, associating with it the name of Mr. Dawson, High Sheriff of the city of Limerick—a city whose prosperity would be more advanced by Home Rule than that of any city he knew [applause].

The High Sheriff of Limerick, who was received with cheers, responded. After saying he was overwhelmed with the responsibility cast upon him by his distinguished friend and great representative, Mr. Butt [cheers], when he found his humble name associated with such a toast, and received so generously, so enthusiastically, by this important meeting, he said he had continuously reflected and dwelt upon the condition of the country, and he had been enabled by observation in other countries, and by the information he gathered in an institution dear to them in this city—in the Catholic University of Ireland [cheers]—he had been enabled to contrast the position of his country with that of other nations, and the more he reflected upon the position of Ireland, and contrasted it with the condition of the free and happy nations of past and present, the more convinced he was that they could never drink this toast with the full substance of prosperity around them until they had that which contained it from beginning to end—Home Rule and native legislation [cheers].

The chairman next rose and said—Before I come to the toast of the evening, there is one that ought to take precedence; it is the cause that is dear to all our hearts—the Home Rule cause [hear, hear, and cheers]. I would take the liberty of asking a very valued friend, Mr. Mitchell Henry, to speak to this toast [cheers.] He is a man who has brought many advantages to the cause, but, higher than any he could bring, he has brought an honest heart and a true devotion to this cause. If he had done nothing but give to the public that masterly exposition of the injustice done to Ireland in our present financial relations, he would have deserved well of all of us [cheers].

The toast having been duly honoured,

Mr. Mitchell Henry, M P., said, in the course of a very eloquent speech, that he spoke on behalf of the Home Rule cause as it was expounded at the Conference held in Dublin, swerving not one inch from that programme; but if he had not seen in the course of his parliamentary experience that anything required to be added to that Conference, he still more failed to see that anything should be detracted from it (hear, hear, and cheers). Well, what had been achieved in the three years they had been fighting? Did they expect that in three years the prejudices of centuries would have been overpowered, or even the ears of the English people opened to listen to their argument? There was no country that had ever gained its liberties that had not earned them by a long and hard apprenticeship. Three years ago, when the English papers anticipated the new parliament would throw the balance of power into Irish hands, and that they would at once achieve the utmost object of their desire, he ventured to say to his revered friend in the chair that he trusted this would not be so, for that no country that ever achieved its liberties by a *coup de main* was able to retain them (applause). Every defeat to them in the House of Commons should be taken as a lesson of chastisement from the Almighty and a fresh incentive to exertion and virtue (applause). He did not scruple to say that he thought their debates on the Home Rule question had been the least successful of their efforts. He did not scruple to say that there were reasons for that circumstance which ought not to exist in the future. He believed Home Rule debates in future should be conducted upon autocratic principles (cheers). He believed their great leader (cheers) was entitled to put his hand on every man and say—"In the name of Ireland, you will take such and such a part. You shall not presume to interfere in this debate merely because it is your good pleasure to do so. You shall obey that programme which I have laid down in consultation with my colleagues." Because there never was a less despotic government than that of my hon. friend (more cheering). If that had been done on the late occasion he ventured to think that the treachery of a very eloquent man (hisses) would not have been unanswered, for he believed the answer would have covered the hon. member with disgrace (cheers). The House of Commons would have been told that whatever the hon. member thought of the shortcomings of Home Rule now, he had at any rate assented to it, that he pledged himself to fight their battle upon those lines, and that if he had swerved from those lines he had never dared to face his constituents (loud cheers). He trusted in the future, speeches like these could never go unanswered, and that there could never again be any doubt that what they desired for Ireland was that she should be entirely free to govern her own internal affairs and that she should have the great privilege of still taking her part in the affairs of an imperial parliament (cheers). These were the sentiments which Ireland had endorsed through her representatives, and which, if conveyed in an unfaltering voice, and with the logic and perseverance that belonged to his colleague, would yet produce their effect (loud cheering).

The chairman said he had now to propose the toast of the evening, and one that he was proud and happy to propose from that chair—namely, their "Guests of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain" (applause). He believed that the greatest triumphs for the cause that had been achieved had been achieved by the English Confederation (applause). They had done so with very little money. He saw it stated in a Dublin Conservative paper that the English Confederation was a myth, that their meeting in Dublin was a sham, and that they had no money (laughter). Was it a myth that in Manchester two candidates for the representation of that city, the one Liberal and the other Conservative, both pledged themselves to the Home Rule programme? (Immense applause). Was it a myth that in Newcastle-upon-Tyne a Conservative member and a Liberal member were both pledged to vote for Home Rule? (Hear, hear). Was it a myth that at Burnley the returned candidate was elected by the Irish vote because he pledged himself to vote for the Home Rule motion which he (the chairman) was about to bring forward? Was it a myth that in one of the greatest constituencies in England (Leeds) the other day the election lay in the hands of the Irish voters, as was admitted on all sides, and the Conservative candidate calculated implicitly on being returned, because the Conservative party imagined that the religious question would carry the Irish vote with it? (No, no). It was also said by the Irish Tory papers that this was a terrible Guy Fawkes plot, intended to blow up Home Rule, and above all, to send Mr. Butt sky high (applause and laughter). He was actually told that one London paper—he hoped he was not revealing any secrets—had sent over a photographic artist to take the scenes of riot that were expected to occur at the meeting (laughter). Some of the papers had stated that he (the chairman) was about to lose the confidence which had hitherto been reposed in him—in fact, that it was intended, he had almost used the expression, to dethrone him. He wondered what they would say when they heard the vote of confidence that has been passed with so much enthusiasm. They would not say a single word about that. With regard to a subject that had been touched on, he happened to be with some friends in a hotel in Wexford, and he expressed the belief that if any waiter in that hotel had publicly declared that he had no belief in the Home Rule movement, he would at once be taken up and lauded as a true patriot by the English papers. There was a man of whom he did not want to say a disrespectful word—with whom he had often held counsel as to the conduct of the Home Rule movement—the member for Westmeath. (Some hisses and cries of "Order.") Let them not say a word against that gentleman—he was his (the chairman's) friend. He had heard that gentleman speak frequently on Irish affairs. He confessed he never thought he was equal to Grattan, and it never occurred to him to compare the gentleman to Canning. The English people never discovered this Grattan until he set himself against his country (hear, hear, and loud applause)—

"Unprized are her sons till they've learned to betray."

(Renewed applause). And the waiter whom he (the chairman) had spoken of at Wexford, who, he believed in his conscience, would be elevated by the English press into a leader of the Irish people had he simply got up and said, "Mr. Butt, you are not speaking the sentiment of the Irish nation," had found his counterpart in the member for Westmeath. It was for the English Confederation to counteract this. We might do what we liked here, but the element of power that would force English statesmen to meet our demands was the Irish nation that was growing up in England (applause). It was with pride and pleasure that he proposed the health of their guests—"The Council of the Irish Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain;" and he ventured to couple with that toast three names—namely, those of Dr. Commins, of Liverpool; Mr. John Ferguson, of Glasgow; and Dr. De Thuruy.

Dr. Commins responded in an eloquent speech.

Mr. Ferguson, of Glasgow, also addressed the company in a forcible speech.

Rev. Dr. De Thurny said there were days in our lives that we would consider always days of glory and days of confusion. This day was to him both. If he was a foreigner he was not a stranger, because he had come from a land which, for a thousand years, had been the sister of noble Ireland (cheers). France, his beloved country—(loud cheers)—a country that now was suffering as Ireland was suffering—a country that had been trampled by the enemy—a country that would not be conquered—France had in Europe two sisters whom she loved always. Both of them were persecuted, and because they were persecuted they were the sisters of his country. They were Ireland and Poland (loud cheers).

At this moment considerable noise was made, and general attention was directed to a rather common-place-looking man who was sitting among the waiters, and whom Mr. McAlister said was a member of the G Division—a detective.

The chairman addressed the detective, and asked had he a ticket to be at this meeting [great noise].

Chairman—Will you leave this man to me, gentlemen?

The detective was collared by two or three gentlemen and dragged up in front of Mr. Butt, where he stood with a very stupid air, looking sheepishly about.

Chairman—Answer me, sir! Have you a ticket of admission? [Noise.] Have you a ticket of admission?

The detective [in a low voice]—No, I have not.

Chairman—Where do you come from?

A Voice—The Castle [cheers].

Chairman—Ah! gentlemen, do you think I don't know how to maintain your dignity? [Addressing the detective]—Where do you come from?

The detective—Dublin [laughter and noise].

Chairman—Who sent you here? [Noise]. What brought you here, who are you, what's your name?

A Voice—That's Scully.

The detective—He has answered you.

Chairman—[decidedly]—I require you, sir, to answer me.

The detective—Mr. Byrne has answered you.

A Voice—He is a detective [hisses].

Chairman—Give me your name?

The detective—Scully.

Chairman—What is you Christian name? [Disorder.] Everybody must keep quiet. What brought you here? I will give you to the police if you do not tell me. I will call in the police. Do you understand that?

The detective—I do; I have no reason [disorder.]

Chairman—Who are you?

The detective—My name is Scully.

Chairman—Give me your residence.

The detective—Exchange-court [the detective headquarters].

Chairman—Is that near the Castle?

The detective—It is.

Chairman—Are you a detective?

The detective—Yes [great uproar, and movement of several persons towards the detective].

Chairman—Then, sir, go out of the room. Go out of it immediately.

Constable Scully was then very rapidly removed by a number of persons, after experiencing considerable personal inconvenience, outside into Brunswick-street.

Chairman—Now, gentlemen, I know how to vindicate the rights of Irishmen [cheers] when they meet, and I tell you this, that before to-morrow's sun sets I will know from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how dare he send his detective into this room [loud applause]. And I say, as one of her Majesty's counsel, that in the name of the sovereign who made me one of her counsel a more daring outrage has never been committed upon an assembly of Irishmen than by those who sent that man here, and I will know from my sovereign, through the House of Commons, and I will know from the Lord Lieutenant by to-morrow night, by what authority any man dare do it [applause]. Is there any other detective here?

Mr. McAlister—I know that there are two outside.

Chairman—Outside they may stay. They have a right to stay outside, and if they have a warrant they have a right to arrest me when I leave this room, but we will observe the principles of British law [loud applause]. We need not disturb this meeting more than those vagabonds, those few ruffians, have disturbed it. I have vendicated the privilege of Irish gentlemen in this room; I have ordered that man out of the room; and we need not have more of it [cheers].

Dr. Commins then, in complimentary terms, proposed "the health of Mr. Butt," which was drunk enthusiastically.

The chairman, in reply, said he returned them his most cordial thanks. Every manifestation of the kindness of his fellow-countrymen was to him a matter of the highest pride, and it was, on the other hand, a matter of humiliation when he looked back to his own life and thought how much he might have done for the cause of Ireland [cheers]. If a devotion to the cause of his country, if an utter