

arrived at came messages deprecating compromise from, amongst others, the members of the Columban League of Maynooth and the priests of the Dunboyne Establishment. Those who told us that we were trying to force our views on the University regardless of the wishes and interests of the students have now got their answer. In all broad Ireland only seventy-four students (including Englishmen, Scotchmen, Jews, and Clongownians) have been found to put their names to an anti-Irish protest. The students are with us in somewhat larger proportion than the country at large,—say, nine out of every ten."

At the convention of the Irish Parliamentary Party, held in Dublin during February, a resolution favouring compulsory Irish for matriculation in the new University was proposed by Mr. Bolland, M.P., and, despite some opposition, was carried by a large majority. In this connection, the "Claidheamh" remarks:

"The question as to whether the public of Ireland is with or against the demand for Irish as an essential part of the basis of education in the National University has been settled once and for all by the National Convention. That Convention was representative of all nationalist Ireland outside of the Sinn Fein Party. The Sinn Fein Party has been with us from the start. Its leaders have been fighting this battle side by side with the leaders of the language movement. The other and larger body of Irish Nationalists has now declared itself on our side with equal decisiveness and equal enthusiasm. All that part of Ireland which postulates an Irish Nation is thus definitely with us,—with us, if we may take the voting at the Convention as an index, six to one. . . ."

In the meantime, the Coiste Gnotha, or Executive Committee, of the Gaelic League, has issued a manifesto, in which its members express the determination of the League to "stand as firm as a rock," as the official organ puts it.

The story of Irish as a spoken language is linked with the fortunes of the Irish nation. It had, at the time of the English invasion, imposed itself on the descendants of the Danes. Thenceforward, through the centuries, despite all Anglicizing efforts to the contrary, it was, till the middle of the eighteenth century, the language of the nation, and as such spoken by both Gael and Norman. Dr. Douglas Hyde supplies ample information on the subject in his "Literary History of Ireland." He says:

"The absorbing power of Irish nationality continued so strong all through the seventeenth century that, according to Prendergast, many of the children of Oliver Cromwell's soldiers who had settled in Ireland, could not speak a word of English. It was the same all