

to-day, and which I have no doubt will receive the assent of the vast majority of the House, will be sufficient answer to that slander, which was sent forth, no doubt, merely for electioneering purposes, but there was something still more. My hon. friends the Irish Catholic members on this side came in for their share of misrepresentation. My hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue and other hon. gentlemen were by them pointed out as those who had betrayed the cause of Ireland. But there was a special emissary engaged, a special personage employed more particularly to hound me down in a very special manner. I believe and I know in my heart, and I said all through the campaign, that the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition in this House, is a sincere Home Ruler, a sincere friend of Ireland, because, no matter what might be the consequence, I was determined the Home Rule cause should not suffer by having it stated that any man who upheld it was not sincere in his advocacy. Whilst I am proud to think that his great gifts, gifts that are given to so few, those high intellectual qualities and the magnificent accomplishments by which they have been brought to such perfection, are always, when required, at the service of the land of his forefathers. I believe, and I know as a fact, that although the Minister of Inland Revenue may not have the same brilliant talents to lay on the altar of his country, there is one thing every Irishman in this country will admit he would be ready to do at a moment's notice, and that is to lay down his life for the cause of Ireland. What was the course pursued against myself? Down to a day or two before the close of the election contest, we found this language circulated in a journal supposed to be published in the interests of Catholicity, and edited by a personage drawn from God knows what purlieu of journalism—a man without any faith whatsoever, an apostate from the old faith, an apostate against christianity itself, a man whose private character is as vile as vile can be. What did this man call me? He declared in the columns of this so-called Catholic paper, on the 28th January, that I was a traitor to the cause of Home Rule, that I was as bad as any "scurvy sneak, informer, spy and traitor, ever employed by the British Government to bring Irish patriots to the gallows." "If I should be elected," he said, "every trimmer, time-server, place-hunter, apostate, renegade, traitor and mercenary would find every villainy he might contemplate justified in advance." Benedict Arnold was a saint in comparison; Judas Iscariot and his thirty pieces of silver were made to do service as the only illustration suitable for the occasion. I was to be buried out of sight beneath the ballots of Montreal Centre. What I regret is that no member of the party on the other side, high or low, ever felt it to be his duty to raise his voice against such a system of moral assassination as this. A leading journal of the Dominion—I may say the leading evening journal of the Dominion—felt constrained to say that writing such as that had caused the death of the most brilliant Irishman ever in the Dominion of Canada. I trust we have seen for the last time in the public press of our country any such vile and slanderous writings as that I have just referred to. Can we not, we who profess to love Ireland, love Ireland without hating one another? For myself, as I said a moment ago, I am prepared on all occasions to work with gentlemen on the other side or upon any side of the House in favor of the cause we all have so much at heart, and if I have alluded to this matter to-day it is for the last time, because I trust we shall never have a resurrection of such writings as I have alluded to. Now, a few words in conclusion in regard to the moral to be drawn from the maxim laid down by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills). In the past it has been sought to introduce into this country an Orange and Green war, which has, in its time, desolated Ireland and been the cause of a great deal of its misery. We have had attempts made to arouse the vilest

passions, to arouse the worst prejudices, to set man against man in this country, and all for the purpose of furthering the interests of political parties in this country. In this land we see the Catholic and the Orangeman going to the polls together to vote for those things which they consider are for the material interests of our Dominion, and I can say fearlessly that such a state of things is what the patriots and poets of Ireland and every man who has loved Ireland have sighed for and prayed for in the past. If that state of things could exist in Ireland, if the Irish Catholic and the Irish Orangemen could go to the polls together and vote as they do here for the material interests of the country, if we could see there as we do here that, under the benign influences of our liberal and free institutions, those people could labor in common and side by side for the advancement and progress of their common country, then we would see the triumphs dawning for the national cause there. It has been for years and years the complaint, and the saddest complaint of the best men in Ireland, that the people would not come together and join hands. They are doing it to-day. When we take up any Irish paper, we find the Irish Catholic and the Irish Protestant ranging side by side in this great movement; we see the old prejudices disappearing; and are we in this country going to revive the old war, are we going to make it a crime for an Irish Catholic to join hands with an Irish Protestant, whether Orangeman or not, for the advancement of the material interests of his country? To do such a thing would be to inaugurate a war here which has produced such disastrous results in the land we have been discussing for the last four days, and whose interests we have been seeking to advance as far as we can. Whilst thanking this honorable House for the favor they have done me in thus listening to these observations, I trust there will be no dissenting voice, and that I shall be allowed to make such alterations in this document as have been suggested by the hon. the leader of the Opposition. I do that in the spirit in which he extended it to me, because I feel I am acting in such a way as will secure greater unanimity. Members from both sides of the House have come to me and asked me to eliminate those words of protest against the adoption of the law, and to express the hope that such a measure will not become law. I do that with pleasure, and I also take out the section which refers to the adoption of a system similar to that in the Dominion of Canada, and substitute, as the leader of the Opposition has suggested, a substantial measure of Home Rule for Ireland. The resolution, in that shape, I think will meet the wishes and views of every man in this country, who desires to send across the Atlantic an expression of sympathy to the old land, an expression that will have its effect, if not upon the rulers of Great Britain to-day, at all events upon the people of Great Britain who, after all, are to be the ultimate judges of this matter. When the people of England, the people of Scotland, and the people of Wales, see that in this Home Rule country there is such a love of Ireland, such a desire that the privileges we enjoy should be extended to them, then those who have been laboring for the past few years to give to Ireland those great benefits, will be encouraged and cheered on in their course; and those who have been opposing a just measure of Home Rule for Ireland will feel, at all events, that it is time for them to stand and think; think over the course they have been pursuing, and to place in office those who will be willing to endeavor to rule that country by some system different from that which has prevailed for the last eighty-seven years, and that has produced such results amongst the people of those two great countries, who are destined by God and by nature to be bound together, who should be bound together in the bonds of brotherly love and common citizenship, but who have been driven apart, who have been made to hate one another, not by nature but by bad laws, laws which we trust to see repealed, laws which,