

Irish Party in Ireland, and even in America, it seems but proper that we, by placing the name of that party on the toast-list of St. Patrick's Day Banquet, display our gratitude for the noble fight which it has sustained in an endeavor to secure the redress of Ireland's wrongs; show our hearty approval of the policy pursued by that party, and assure it that we join with the rest of the Irish world in lending it our support.

The advocates of Sinn Fein have lately been displaying hostility to the Irish Party, and to the Irish national organization as founded by Parnell and Davitt in the Land League, and continued in the United Irish League. Some of these expounders of the Sinn Fein movement have had the hardihood to deny that the Irish Party and their agitation of the past 29 years have won any benefits for Ireland. A glance over the records of the Irish Party will show that no other political body has accomplished, in the same length of time, what they have done. They have kept Ireland's grievances before the eyes of the world, both by their conduct in the British Parliament, and by the sending of envoys to other nations, particularly to Australia, Canada and the United States. At home, by their magnificent fight, they have encouraged the people, and raised them from a state of apathy, in a nation of agitators, demanding the rights which have been withheld from them so long. For 29 years has this illustrious party struggled against the most powerful empire in the world, and in time they have wrested from her measure after measure. The Land Act of 1881, the Migration Act of 1882, the Agricultural Act of 1898, the Local Government Act of 1906, and the Franchise Act of 1885, which took the representation of Ireland out of the hands of the landlords and placed it in those of the people—all testify to the courage, eloquence and aggressiveness of the Irish Party in the British House of Commons.

Is it to be wondered at that a party in which appear the names of Parnell, Grattan, and Pitt; Justin McCarthy, one of the greatest of modern historians; T. P. O'Connor, the greatest journalist of the day; Timothy Healy, Joseph and Charles Devlin, men renowned the world over for their oratory and political tact, and last, but by no means least, John E. Redmond, the greatest political leader—is it to be wondered at that a party which numbers among its members such men as these should have wrested from England so many measures, that it should have excited admiration throughout the world, and have universally won the hearty support and approval of the Irish race.