

## Freedom and National Independence.

The following extract from Mr. Sexton's speech in Parliament, on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, January, 1886, will clearly define the sense in which Irishmen use the terms "*Freedom*" and "*National Independence*":—

"Those Ministers who had the responsibility of power knew that within the bounds of the British Empire were a score or so of Parliaments. They were aware of the securities of these Parliaments that they should not exceed their proper bounds. They had their agents. They were familiar with the case of Austria and Hungary, of Norway and Sweden, and their agents could report how it was with the great federation of the German Empire and the miniature one of Switzerland. It was for this or any other Government to cull and select these various precedents and examples, and establish a check and counter check, a balance and counterpoise, upon which the freedom of Ireland might be granted while the integrity of the Empire was preserved. The supremacy of the Crown was never called in question. It remained unaffected in the Irish Parliament that previously existed. The supremacy of the Crown was outside the scope of the question. The supremacy of this Parliament required no guarantee (cheers), and he would tell them that the only permanent guarantee rests in the satisfaction of the people. Nothing but discontent and opposition could be felt towards the insulting rule of alien officials. Let them contrast that with the state of affairs which would ensue if the laws of Ireland were made by Irishmen, and if the Irish people were sensible that the law deserved their respect and obedience because it was framed with a view to their wishes and necessities (Irish cheers)—where, then, would be the danger to the integrity of the Empire? As