

made in the cause of Home Rule ought to have been more than sufficient to shield you from mean insinuations and vindictive calumnies, and should also have proved to the most suspicious and incredulous your absolute devotion to the Irish cause.

If I mention, in passing, the enormous sacrifices you have made, it is not on your account, but for the sake of good and true men at home, who might be led astray, in your regard, by false statements and misrepresentations. Here in Canada, where you were bred, born and reared, and where you are well known both as to your private and public life, you need no certificate of character from any individual or from any individual or from any body of citizens, for you possess in an eminent degree the esteem, admiration and confidence of your countrymen. In saying this much I am sure that I voice the public opinion of Canada.

I think, too, sir, that we in this country have a right and a duty to raise our voice in protest against the destructive dissensions that rend the ranks of the Irish Parliamentary representatives, that do so much to discredit their cause and ruin their effectiveness. Canada has contributed generously towards the Home Rule Parliamentary fund. Not much more than a year ago we here in Toronto, in the midst of great financial depression, subscribed the handsome sum of something more than \$7,000. In other cities and districts of the Dominion sums proportionately as large were freely given for the purpose. In view of these large monetary contributions, in view of the material and moral aid which by words and acts, and even by resolutions unanimously passed in the Dominion Parliament, we have given towards the Irish cause, we have a right to deplore and deprecate the fatal dissensions that have weakened and paralyzed the Irish Parliamentary representation, and that have thwarted and baffled the Home Rule cause. This is not the place to discuss the cause of these dissensions: it must suffice here to raise our voice in protest against them, and to declare that those responsible for them have brought shame and dishonor on their country, and are guilty of high treason against the Irish race at home and abroad.

For these fatal dissensions it is our solemn conviction that neither you nor those with whom you are working are in any wise responsible. You have but been their victims. In order to try to keep peace and harmony in your ranks you have borne quietly with misrepresentations and calumnies, until patience ceased to be a virtue, and your silence was constructed by some into an admission of guilt. Will Irishmen never give heed to the warning of our national poet which is also the teaching of our sad history?

"Ere, thy silent tear never shall,  
Ere, thy languid smile no'er shall increase,  
Till, like the rainbow's light,  
Thy various tints unite,  
And form in Heaven's sight  
One arch of peace."

How is this necessary union to be effected? How are the Irish National forces to be focussed into a great centre of strength and power? It seems to me that to the solution of this problem Irish patriotism and statesmanship should now devote themselves. Surely Ireland must still have the power and vitality to shake off from her the fatal dissensions that have of late preyed upon her and threatened the extinction of her national life; surely she

must not allow herself, like a derelict ship at sea, to drift about aimlessly and hopelessly, a prey to the waves and storms of angry passions and interminable feuds.

This is not a time for despondency or despair, it is rather a time for courageous resolve and action. The Home Rule cause has cost the Irish race too many sacrifices, it has been pushed too far towards realization, to be now abandoned because of the difficulties that beset it. These difficulties are, for the most part, the direct result of personal jealousies, animosities and ambitions indulged in by certain of the Irish representatives, and doubtless they can be pushed out of the way by the united and determined action of the Irish people.

#### THE ARCHBISHOP'S SUGGESTION.

As an Irishman interested in the destinies of my native land, I trust I may, without presumption, venture to make a suggestion, which, if acted on, would, in my opinion, be instrumental in securing that unity of counsel and of action amongst the Nationalists of Ireland so necessary for the success of the cause they have at heart. My suggestion is this: Let a great national convention be held in Dublin, composed of chosen representatives of the clergy and people of Ireland, and of an advisory representation of the Irish race abroad. In that convention let Ireland speak out her mind. Let not her voice be like a broken musical instrument, emitting discordant notes and jarring sounds, but let it, on the contrary, be clear, loud and emphatic, insisting on unity and condemning faction. Let her point out and uphold the Parliamentary representatives whose methods and conduct she approves, and let her mark out and condemn those whose intolerance of control, personal jealousies and animosities have done so much to break the unity and waste the strength of the National party. Dissensions and feuds have in the past been the ruin and curse of Ireland. Let her stamp, then, out and cast them from her as things more noxious than the serpents St. Patrick banished from her shores. In that convention let the voice of Ireland's sons abroad be heard and their advice considered. They live under free institutions and are accustomed to the workings of deliberative assemblies and representative Governments, and hence the advice and experience of their chosen delegates, in the present condition of Irish affairs would be of the utmost value and importance. Surely representative Irishmen, in convention assembled, free from prejudices and passions, having at heart not the triumph of party or faction but the welfare and honor of their race and the triumph of their country cause, will be able to concert and adopt such measures as will enforce proper discipline and due subordination in the ranks of the nations representatives, and in this way will be able to secure amongst them that unity of purpose and action so absolutely vital to their success.

A great national convention, such as I venture to suggest, speaking with the authority of the nation, and voicing its fixed and unalterable purpose, to labor for and to win the right of self-government, would give new hope and heart and energy to Irishmen at home and abroad, and it would be able to restore unity amongst the ranks of the Irish National representatives, to make of them once more a compact body and a irresistible power in the Imperial Parliament. When Ireland

speaks to Englishmen through such a body her just demands cannot be long refused her.

Wishing you a safe and prosperous voyage to the sunny lands of the Southern Cross, and with sentiments of sincere esteem,

Believe me to be, my dear Mr. Blake,  
Yours very faithfully  
JOHN WALSH,  
Archbishop of Toronto.

## A JOYOUS OCCASION.

### The 25th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Flannery's Pastorate

CELEBRATED AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH—THE REV. FATHER PRESENTED WITH APPROPRIATE DRESSER AND A CHURCH FOR \$200.

Sunday, Oct. 6th, was a day which will long be remembered in the annals of the Church of the Holy Angels in St. Thomas, Ont. It was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Flannery's pastorate of the Catholic church there. The edifice was crowded at both the morning and evening services. It being the first Sunday in October and the 18th Sunday after Pentecost, the Feast of the Holy Rosary was observed. After High Mass had been celebrated, Mr. James Overend, President of St. Thomas Branch, No. 2, C. M. B. A., came forward and read the following address:—

Rev. Father Flannery, P. D.,  
Rev. and Dear Father:

On this the twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastorate in St. Thomas, we, the officers and members of Branch No. 2, C. M. B. A., beg to tender you our hearty congratulations. We now appreciate your labor and foresight when, by your advice and good counsel, you assisted years ago in organizing a branch here of this grand Catholic fraternal society, which, though then in its infancy, has marvelously grown, while now it is one of the leading societies in Canada.

The thanks of the Catholics in Canada and the United States are due to you and others of your worthy colleagues who worked so assiduously and persistently in introducing and establishing the society, the object of which is to elevate in a spiritual and moral sense all its members and also protect from want the widows and orphans of its deceased members.

Since the organization of this branch, the sum of \$25,000 has been paid here to relatives of deceased members, and we are safe in saying that we should all feel proud of having a branch of such a society in our midst.

The thanks of Branch No. 2, St. Thomas, are especially due to you as a spiritual adviser for the good counsel and guiding words so willingly tendered since its organization, also for your labors as delegate to the Grand Council, when each individual member had ample reason to be proud of his representative.

We earnestly pray that God in his mercy may spare you many years with us, that we may long enjoy the benefits of your guiding hand and spiritual advice. Signed on behalf of the committee.

JAS. OVEREND, President.  
JOHN ROYCE, 1st Vice-Pres.  
CHARLES ARLEN, 2nd Vice-Pres.  
P. B. REATH, Chancellor.  
JOHN BUTLER, Treasurer.  
DANIEL BARRITT, Fin. Sec.  
P. J. McMANIS, Rec. Sec.  
S. B. POOCK.  
JAS. EGAN.

St. Thomas, Oct. 6th, 1895.

Mr. D. J. Donahue, Crown Attorney, then read the following address: Mr. J. D. King, handling Father Flannery a check for \$350.

To the Rev. Father Flannery, P. D., Parish Priest of St. Thomas.

Rev. and Dear Father:  
It is with feelings of gratitude and pleasure that we your parishioners, offer you our warmest congratulations on this the 25th anniversary of your arrival in St. Thomas to take charge of this parish.

As we look back over that long vista of years during which you have ministered to our spiritual wants, we cannot but respectfully recall the fact that the majority of those who greeted you on your arrival here twenty-five years ago have closed their eyes in death.

For those who have thus passed away for ever from amongst us we may in grateful memory of them truthfully say that they were your sincere and devoted friends in life and truly preserved their sweetest consolations in the hour of death.

We, however, who have, by the grace of God, been spared through all these years and those of your people who have in time to time been added to the number of your congregation, have today many solid reasons for pouring out to you in our studied manner our sentiments of love, of reverence and of deep affection. Our beloved Father, convent, schools and cemetery—a life of debt—are eloquent monuments testifying to the wisdom and zeal of your administration.

We recognize and appreciate the fact that you have spent twenty-five years of the bloom of a noble, active, and cultured life for our several benefits, as well as for our eternal salvation. That you have, by your example, and the proud Catholic generosity of your life, not only broken down the wall of sectarian prejudice, but also won for yourself and for us respect and consideration from our Protestant fellow-citizens.

We remember, too, that when days of sickness and sorrow came upon us, you were not wanting in that deep solicitude which a priest should ever have for his people, but cheerfully (sometimes at the risk of your life, with hope in your eyes, sweet counsel on your lips, and true manliness as well as priestliness in your bearing, brought to our sick and dying the consolations, calm and strengthening comforts of a truly religion.

Your literary attainments and brilliant social qualities have ever been employed in the elevation of your people to the Catholic idea of good citizenship, love of God and country.

But to enumerate the many reasons which exist for tendering you our warmest congratulations to-day would be to attempt to recall and recount the thousand deeds of charity and love bestowed, not alone on our silent dead but also on every member of your parish, who to-day look on you as a loving pastor and warm personal friend. And twenty-five years of honest, intelligent toil among your parishioners have won for you the deepest affection of a devoted people. May we not pray with you that God may spare your life to us, and that the tie of affection and respect that now binds us together may strengthen as the years pass by, so that your golden jubilee may be fraught with increased blessings to both pastor and people. We now affectionately tender you this testimonial as a slight but tangible token of the warm sentiments of a people united in love and reverence for their pastor.

Signed on behalf of your congregation, this 6th day of October, A. D. 1895, by

D. J. DONAHUE,  
JOHN D. KING,  
JAMES GRANEY,  
JOHN T. COUGHLIN,  
JOSEPH DOYLE,  
J. H. PRICE,  
S. B. POOCK,  
W. P. REYNOLDS,  
THOMAS KELLY,  
JOHN BUTLER,  
JAMES EGAN,  
JOHN FRANK,  
JAMES BRANN.

Rev. Dr. Flannery replied in fitting terms. The reverend gentleman was overpowered with gratification at the two addresses. The first one read by the president of the St. Thomas Branch, No. 2, C. M. B. A., he appreciated very much. He was doubly thankful for having been instrumental in establishing the branch of the society in this city. It was a munificent society. On the payment of a very small premium a member's family receives two thousand dollars on his demise. There has been a number of poor families greatly benefited by it, no