

ment granted them what they asked for. Great Britain has granted responsible government to this country, and the French Canadians have proved themselves well worthy of the trust, and on all occasions have been loyal and true subjects of the Queen. They have proved themselves just as capable for self-government as the people in any other portion of the Empire. Now, why should we not grant to Ireland the same rights that we have in this country? Why not restore once more to the Irish people the longed-for Parliament of their own choosing at College Green? I am not referring to past history, but I am speaking of the present position. I remember the words used by that great statesman, Mr. Disraeli, when he said: "It is the business of the English statesmen to confer upon Ireland by policy what, if she were strong, she would gain for herself by revolution." Those are noble words, and fitly expressed. Yes, I think England, at the present moment, could do a great service to itself, to humanity and to Ireland. If Mr. Gladstone, who is now guiding the destinies of the British Empire, really desires, as I believe he does, that Ireland should become happy, he can do so by adopting a bold and straightforward policy. Nothing else can save Ireland and nothing else can relieve England from its present embarrassing position. It is an embarrassment to any Government, strong as it may be, to have a part of the Empire disturbed, to be obliged to keep on a war footing thousands of soldiers and to expend millions of pounds to maintain the peace in a country like Ireland, or indeed any portion of the Empire. Let England, noble as she is, come to the rescue; let her pass laws which the Irish desire; let Ireland have a Government, and see what it can do. Let the Irish people be able to discuss their own affairs, and we shall then see whether they will not prove themselves equal to the task. They have done so everywhere, they have done so in this country, and they do so now. Surely when I see myself surrounded by so many hon. gentlemen of Irish descent, when I see the hon. leader of the Opposition, who has made a magnificent oration on Ireland, I cannot fail to feel that the Irish in Ireland will be the same as here, and I hope the day is not far distant when that extension of Irish privileges will be accomplished. Let England, instead of paying money to keep the peace in Ireland, spend it as it has been done in this country. Did not Canada, a few years ago, pay three or four millions to abolish seigniorial tenure, although it was not a great burden on the country. Did not that measure relieve Canada of great difficulty and increase the contentment of the people? We want to live in peace here, and Irishmen will feel when they land on our shores that they are as happy here as at home. I am satisfied and convinced that no part of the British Empire will be more loyal than the Emerald Isle, if the Government could be made satisfactory to her. I am satisfied that Ireland would prove equal to any part of the Empire if that were done. Irishmen have added much glory to the British flag, because in every sphere of life we find Irishmen prominent: on the battle-field, adorning the Bench, and in every possible position where science and art are displayed, you find Irish names everywhere. Marshal McMahon, the famous general, is descended from an Irish family, like Marshal O'Donnell in Spain. Most distinguished citizens of Irish descent are to be found in all provinces of Canada and in all the other British colonies. The Imperial Government is contemplating at the present time to extend representative institutions to her newly acquired colony of Cyprus. Is not Ireland hundreds of times more entitled to Home Rule than these new members of the British Empire? Let England give Ireland Home Rule and change a tenure of land which is the most backward of all Europe and more oppressive than slavery; for with this system slaves are sure to have a home whilst Irish tenants are not. Let those facts be remembered.

I shall be glad to see the resolution unanimously adopted, and that we determine to set aside in this discussion party politics in deciding to make representations to the British Government, and I am sure that when the interest we manifest here is observed, that our resolutions will not be the only resolutions adopted by colonies of the British Empire.

Mr. CASEY. It is pleasant to an Irishman to hear such words as have fallen from the hon. member for Montreal East (Mr. Coursol), an hon. gentleman of a different nationality, but entertaining deep sympathy with the Irish race. If anything were wanting to add to the force of the arguments addressed in favor of the resolution it is furnished in the experience of his compatriots in this country. No stronger arguments could be urged in favor of the claim to Home Rule for Ireland than is that furnished by the French Canadians in the Province of Quebec, that a large majority differing from the minority in race and religion have been able to manage the local affairs of the Province, including property and civil rights, without trampling on the rights of individuals. It must go far to remove the prejudices of many a Protestant throughout Canada and the Mother Country to know that a Catholic majority of a foreign race in the Province of Quebec have not hitherto shown any inclinations to oppress, injure, or wrongly use the Protestant minority. Why is it? That majority is placed upon its honor. They have the power in their hands to do right or wrong, and they act honorably. If that majority had been for a long period ground down and oppressed by the minority, as the hon. gentleman says they were for a short time, the result might have been different. Oppression makes tyrants, and if the French Canadians had been compelled to bear a long series of oppressive acts, they would not have been quite so temperate in the use of their present power. But we feel it is not too late for Ireland in that respect. We feel that if a power was placed in the hands of the Irish to govern their local affairs, perhaps gradually and with restrictions, it would be exercised as temperately and as well as it is exercised by the Roman Catholic French majority of Quebec. So much for the valuable contribution which the hon. member for Montreal East has given to this discussion. But I must say a few words in regard to the extraordinary speech which has been delivered by the leader of the Government. The hon. gentleman began by eulogising the temper and tone of the speech in which the resolutions were proposed by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Costigan). We are all aware that that hon. member has the faculty of treating delicate questions in a tone calculated to prevent the trouble that might naturally arise from the nature of the questions themselves. It is not the first time the hon. gentleman has done so, and I hope it will not be the last. It is with strong feelings of satisfaction that I heard one of the hot-blooded race of Irishmen discussing political affairs with calm impartiality and with complete control of temper when he has an object to obtain. And, Sir, I think this speech not only stands on its own merits as a good speech upon this question, but it gains very much by comparison with that of the leader of the Government on the same question. The Prime Minister has told us in effect why the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Costigan) was so quiet and restrained in his manner of dealing with this question. He has pointed out to us that without the support of the Ministerial majority in this House these resolutions could not be carried. He has let us see rather clearly by the tone of his speech that he himself has some prejudices upon this question, and has allowed us to infer that his supporters may have prejudices also, and it must be that the member for Victoria was less passionate in urging the evils under which Ireland suffers than he would otherwise have been did he not fear to arouse those prejudices and so prevent the passing of the resolutions. I think he did wisely, and I hope