

men he held in his keeping the reputation for ability of our public men. As leader of the Bar of Ontario his success or failure would redound upon that body. as Chancellor of the University of Toronto, he had to maintain the reputation for scholarship of Canada. He had proved that Irish genius does not deteriorate upon Canadian soil and in his first encounter with Chamberlain he had routed that deserter from Madeline and won the admiration and the praise of one of the bitter enemies of the cause he was fighting for. (Prolonged cheers.) Mr. Curran concluded a splendid speech by referring to the bill now before the House of Commons, containing as it did every check and every guarantee for the Protestant minority. And in this connection he would mention that the enemies of Home Rule were constantly stating: "You shall not have the control of the tariff and you cannot foster native industries in Ireland and if you could there is no coal there for manufacturing purposes." As to the first objection the Irish parliament could bonus industries and for a time exempt them from taxation and even small wages would be a boon to those who had now no employment. True, they had no coal, but they had as fine water-powers as were to be found in the world and these could generate electricity which was destined to be the great motor power of the future. (Cheers.) Lastly, they must adopt a policy of conciliation. They had the Liberal Protestants of Ireland always with them; the others they must win. They should cherish the sentiment of the great national poet of Ireland:

Erin, thy silent tear never shall cease,  
Erin, thy languid smile ne'er shall increase  
Till like the rainbow's light  
Thy various tints unite,  
And form in heaven's sight  
One arch of peace.

(Prolonged cheering.)

Mr. Curran concluded his remarks by a strong appeal for pecuniary aid to the Home Rule party and resumed his seat amidst great cheering.

Address by Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—The following resolution has been placed in my hands to move:—

"That this meeting, recognizing the advantages and privileges of citizenship in the British Empire, rejoices at the prospect of the success of a policy which, by giving those advantages and privileges in a form acceptable to the ideas and aspirations of millions of men, will ensure the peace and prosperity of Ireland, and cement and strengthen the Empire of which that country forms so important a part."

I am here to-night at some inconvenience to myself because I ought to be somewhere else, but I cannot be somewhere else for the best reason in the world, the reason given by a countryman of mine who said that no fellow could be in two places at once unless he was a bird (laughter), but, sir, let me say that I stand here in an entirely private capacity. I do not stand here in a representative capacity to represent a great constituency, but I think very few have paid any attention to this great question, and perhaps the majority of them would oppose the views we advocate here to-night, and one of the reasons why there and elsewhere these views would be opposed is a reason creditable and apologetic; those who oppose the views that we advocate here to-night do it, I believe, not with any animosity to Ireland but because they have not really gone into this somewhat intricate question, and they have taken the superficial misrepresentations made in regard to this question, so that I want to guard against your supposing that I speak to-night for anybody but myself. I am here as a private citizen of Canada and speaking only as a unit of the five millions who are happy citizens of this great and progressive Dominion. (Applause.) Sir, I am here for another reason, and it is a characteristically Irish reason. I think one of the reasons that induced me to come here to-night is that there is a little danger in it. But, sir, here in Canada and in Ireland the character of Irishmen whether Catholic or Protestant, is utterly misunderstood if men think—and I will not make any importance of it—that they could prosecute a man because he had stood up for the country of his birth, and that the Irish people either in Canada or in Ireland would stand quietly by. I will take you into my confidence, and I will tell you this, that high in place—I do not mean in political place—but there are men who have already sent forth the decree that because I raised my voice on behalf

of my country that I must die politically. Well, sir, threatened men live long and you remember that college rhyme:—

"And must Trelawney die,  
And must Trelawney die,  
Then 30,000 Cornish boys  
Will know the reason why."

At this point a gentleman arose and asked leave to propound a question. Mr. Davin consented.

"You said," continued the gentleman, "that you were here to plead for us to the world and to plead for the cause of Ireland. I ask you if you could plead a few favors on behalf of my Lord Hartington, Mr. Joe Chamberlain and Sir Henry James, for they appear to be in a pitiable condition."

Mr. Davin—"I'll do more than that, I'll not only plead for them here, but I'll plead for them at the throne of grace." (Loud applause, laughter and cheers.) Sir, I am here for another reason, and I am here to plead for Home Rule in the interests of the British Empire. I am here for a still further reason, hoping that my voice shall extend beyond these walls and that its echo may even be heard across the Atlantic, that my fellow Irish Protestants, because of reasons that I will advance here to-night, may be led to turn away from a policy that is short-sighted, that is foolish, that is suicidal in regard to themselves. (Loud applause.) Now, sir, you will see that as between free centralized Government, such as you have at present in Great Britain and Ireland, and a free Federal Government, I am not sure that I myself might not lean to the free Centralized Government if it were a success; but as one of the conditions of proof of stability of any form of government is this,—that it must succeed. A Government that does not succeed; a Government that does not secure the confidence of the people; a Government that does not make the people happy and prosperous,—I do not care whether it is Federal or Unitive or a free centralized Government,—that Government is clearly a failure. And has not the Union been a miserable failure, made under such unhappy auspices at the close of the last century, when God and man and devils forsook the banns? (Loud applause.) Has not that Union been an utter failure? What was its history up to the time Mr. Gladstone began his remedial legislation? It was one long and dreary reiterated history of coercion acts. Under it how was the farmer, and the farmer is one of the most important individuals in Ireland, as he is among the most important among our citizens in Canada—I mean the tenant farmer. He was an absolute serf; he was at the mercy entirely of the landlord. Have they self-government in Ireland? Have they self-government, as we understand it, in Canada? It is one of the saddest things in the history of this world of ours, that when the stronger people oppress the weaker, they do not stop with the oppression; they then begin to traduce those whom they have oppressed; they then set their caricaturists to send forth the faces of Gorillas to the world, and hiring scribes are paid to misrepresent those who have been defeated and conquered. So that up to the period of enlightenment and diffusion of knowledge within the last fifty years, with only fifty or one hundred miles between the people thus traduced and their traducers, very intelligent persons fancy that Irishmen had tails. (Laughter.) In order to make the union workable, what do you want? Look at the situation, and take the case of Ireland. You find in Ireland a national sentiment, there it is, it is an awkward thing it is true, but there it is. And you have in politics as in other matters to recognize facts,—For hundreds of years all that power could do has been used to break down that nationality; but like the little shamrock the emblem of the nation, the more trodden on, the more it grew. (Applause.) But we could not destroy the sentiment in our people, therefore we must acknowledge this sentiment as a stern fact that you will have to deal with. Edmund Burke, the greatest philosophical statesman that any country has ever produced, and I want to apply his words now to this thing I call Irish nationality. "But, oh! what a sap must in that genius live that crushed by all sorts of obstacles and met by rock and stone bears up its way until triumphing over all these difficulties it waves its green top in the radiance of the sun," and that is very much what appears to be the history of Irish Nation-

ality. What do we find in Canada? We find that people can attend best to their own local affairs in Canada, and we have local self-Government and no portion is content without this local self-Government. My Honorable friend has pointed out how much better things could be done, and what public works could be carried out. One instance is the building of the Cork and Brandon Railway. To get that railway through London cost as much as to build the whole line. Now it is local works like that that will be benefitted by having local parliament,—there is a point in regard to that in passing that I will make for the Empire. Do you not think that the British Parliament should give a few weeks time to attending to English affairs? We ought to give them some time for that, and the only way is by leaving to the Imperial Parliament, Imperial concerns, and say all local matters shall be dealt with by the local Parliament in Ireland. For these reasons we believe that the Union can be made workable by Mr. Gladstone's propositions. It is stated that the religion of the North of Ireland is in some way to be interfered with. In reading Mr. Gladstone's Bill, you find there is a clause taken almost verbatim from the constitution of the United States protecting absolutely the religion of the minority in Ireland, making it impossible for any Parliament in Dublin to touch the religion of the people. How absurd the whole thing is—it shows a complete misunderstanding of the people of Ireland and of the Catholics, but I will say this much about Catholics—there are no men of any Christian body who cling so tenaciously to their religion, and who are so sensitive in regard to anything said against it—no people, I almost would say so super-sensitive; but there are no people connected with any other religion that I know, who interfere so little with the religion of other people. Religion, therefore, is safeguarded. Now the policy is such to succeed, there is not an instance in history of a question having come to the ripeness that this has come to, and having passed away. It cannot pass away for several reasons: If the population of the Empire are convinced that justice is with it, justice is there. Then again, politicians live on great questions, and another ambitious man would come forward to shove it on. Besides the aggressive party in a state is sure to increase quicker than the party that resists it on any given question. As regards one or two of my friends in Canada who oppose Home Rule—take Mr. Dalton McCarthy, for instance. They voted for it when Mr. Gladstone was dead against it, they said give it: and now that Mr. Gladstone is ready to give it, we will have nothing to do with it. The policy of Home Rule will, in my opinion, make the Union a success, thus you will no longer have in Ireland a flag waving over a discontented people, but when that day comes Irishmen living under Home Rule, favoring all the conditions of national aspirations and those useful principles that are found to be necessary for Government, then throughout all Ireland new impulse will be given to commerce, to trade, to all that ornaments and invigorates life: and those desolate halls of old renown, that harp mute so long and where despair shivered, hope is seen and justice like a sceptered King walks through the land with mercy as his crowned Queen.

Synopsis of the Address by Mr. Charles R. Devlin, M.P.

Mr. C. R. Devlin was then called and delivered a speech leading up to the following resolution, which he moved:

That this meeting, whilst expressing its gratitude to the great leader of the Government, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, for the boon he is endeavoring to confer upon the Irish nation, thus strengthening the bonds between the peoples of the British Isles, desires in a particular manner to congratulate our distinguished Canadian fellow-subject, Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., upon the great success he has achieved in the House of Commons, thus aiding the cause of Ireland and reflecting credit upon the Dominion of Canada.

I have come as representing 70,000 people in the Canadian House of Commons who believe in Home Rule. It means the settlement of a question, which involves the happiness of two nations. I could say more, the happiness of the English speaking races throughout the world. Mr. Gladstone refuses to be a party to bequeathing to his country and to his countrymen this heritage of discord and woe. He would not appear so honorable in these closing years of his life if he had forgone any measure, it was possible for him to take towards assisting a cause, which he be-

lieves to be just, and he believes rightly. Mr. Gladstone will complete the task which Daniel O'Connell commenced. Let us remember that seven years ago, at the advanced age of seventy-five, Mr. Gladstone undertook to correct the wrong of centuries, which notwithstanding the adverse verdict on that occasion rendered, he persisted in his determination to lift Irishmen out of bondage, and break the chains forged by an age of darkness. He had to suffer the desertion of lifelong friends. Obstacles and hostilities were in the way, but justice was the beacon light by which the grand old pilot was guided. So when he next made his appeal, he was supported by the people of Great Britain and of Ireland. We now believe that at last the prayer of Ireland's exiled millions has reached the heart of the King of Kings and the Arbiter of Nations. I will not speak of the opposition found in certain quarters, but I will say this, that it is not altogether difficult to understand the inflammatory addresses made from time to time by Lord Salisbury, Saunderson and others. But not all Ulster nor all the Orangemen of Ulster have to fear for their safety in the event of Home Rule being granted Ireland, but we are warned that to prove their attachment to the British Crown that they are actually preparing to take up arms against that crown if Her Majesty the Queen should see fit to grant Home Rule. That is what you may call responsible loyalty. So long has injustice prevailed that now it seems disloyal to administer an act of justice. What crimes are committed in the name of loyalty! especially what inconsistencies and what contradictions. Let us remember the manifesto issued by the lodge in Belfast, which declared that it would be absolute union with or complete separation from Great Britain. If they dread not political separation which would give disloyalty power, those whom they are pleased to describe as their historic foes, I ask you upon what ground can they justify their opposition to Home Rule, which after all is merely an extension of local government? I am not afraid to say that it is not the Protestants of Ireland who have most reason to feel concerned, it is the Catholics who have every reason to feel most concerned because the Bill which shall be framed, that shall govern Ireland, shall have to pass through the hands of a Protestant government before becoming law. It will have to pass through a Protestant House of Commons and a House of Lords, it will then have to receive the sanction of the Queen and Defender of the Protestant Faith. Is it not strange that those Canadians who are most solicitous for the continuance of the Union, are most solicitous for the maintenance of unjust laws in Canada to minorities. Let us share in the sacrifice if we would share in the triumph; let us remember this, that Home Rule for Ireland has long been asked for by the Irish people and was the object for which Parnell has struggled. It will bring contentment, not only to Ireland but to the British Empire and to all English-speaking races throughout the world.

Address by Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux.

Mr. Lemieux spoke as follows in French:—

Mr. President:—I voice the sentiments of my great compatriots, the French Canadians who have always sympathized with Home Rule for Ireland. As French Canadians we should be untrue to the traditions of honor and to the chivalry of friends if we did not espouse at this moment, the cause of Ireland in its struggles with England. Our hearts beat in unison with yours, and the day when Home Rule will be proclaimed, when a free parliament will sit in College Green, will be a triumph also for Quebec. The cause of Ireland is the cause of Quebec, and the history of Ireland is the history of Quebec. As in Ireland, so there were in Quebec distinguished men, patriots, who took the cause of the people in hand; one of the foremost, Mr. Papineau, was courageously defended by O'Connell for the course he had pursued, and this fact will always be remembered with grateful feelings by the French Canadians. I am not very old, and my experience is not very extended, but I have read the history of the world and I have seen that the empire of Rome, for example, at one time so vast, so firm, so powerful, fell in spite of millions of slaves and legions of soldiers. Queen Victoria presides over the vastest destinies of the world, but for England the page is gloomy. As long as England