

Mr. Blake's speech continued from page 12 of the SUPPLEMENT.

for the members of Parliament. We were at that time, comparatively speaking, flush of money; and more was coming in; and the fund, notwithstanding these subscriptions, was and remained a national fund, an Irish fund, to which these sums made no material pecuniary addition, although the sentiment resulting in their spontaneous offer would be valuable to the cause. (Applause).

Still, after full consideration, and when it had become clear that these and some other subscriptions had been sent in response to the circular erroneously addressed, the Chairman, looking over the whole situation, thought it better to avoid all risk of misconception by causing all such subscriptions, save that of Mr. Gladstone, to be returned; and this has been done. So that in name and in form and in substance this question remains as it was before that circular was issued. In truth, and I can speak upon this subject with absolute confidence on evidence by which I shall convince you, there never could have been any idea in the mind of Mr. McCarthy, or, for that matter, as I know and as I shall prove to you, in the mind of Messrs. Sexton, Dillon, O'Brien, or O'Connor, of asking for subscriptions from those quarters for the Parliamentary Party fund.

I give you my proof. Last spring, in our very darkest hour, when the session was going on, when the fate of the Home Rule government and the Home Rule cause depended upon the Irish vote being kept at Westminster, when the Canadian subscriptions were exhausted, when there was nothing from the States, when it was absolutely impossible, for reasons connected with the evicted tenants' fund, which I have described, to make any appeal to Ireland, when we did not know where to turn, when we were within measurable distance of collapse for want of funds, I myself, as a person who was known to have had some little success in collecting funds on this continent, was approached by a generous friend, by a British Liberal, who was a staunch ally of our cause, who had done much for us politically, and who did not want to see it fail in this miserable way. I was approached by him, and he said to me, "I have done a little for this cause. I have labored for it. I don't want it to fail in this way. It ought not so to fail." And being a very wealthy man, he said to me, "I am willing, and I offer as a testimony of my continued interest in the cause, to give you in my own name or anonymously, or any way you please, two thousand pounds sterling."—\$10,000—"as a subscription to the Irish Parliamentary Fund." That, gentlemen, was Lord Tweedmouth. (Loud applause). The offer was made in the handsomest spirit. It was made in a spirit of respect for those to whom it was made. I told Lord Tweedmouth that I did not believe it would be possible to accept that offer; but that I was not going, in the circumstances under which we stood, to take on my own shoulders the responsibility of decision. I had some private conversation, not mentioning the name—for this is the first time I have mentioned the name; I have thought it due to Lord Tweedmouth, under the circumstances, that it should now become known, and I make it known to the world to-night. Without mentioning the name I told the offer to some friends, to the gentlemen I have named—Messrs. McCarthy, Sexton, T. P. O'Connor, Dillon and O'Brien. They one and all declared to me their opinion that the money could not be accepted (applause), even although a collapse of the movement were inevitable. They said, "Better the movement should fail than that we should put ourselves in the position of accepting such a subscription from a member of the British Government." (Applause).

I felt that the party must have the opportunity of dealing with the offer because the situation was too serious, for the assumption of individual responsibility; and I named it at the meeting of the party at which we were considering our financial condition. We had three meetings before we decided to make an appeal to Ireland. I conveyed the offer to the party at the first of these meetings. But the party did not accept the offer; they determined instead to appeal to Ireland; and I communicated to Lord Tweedmouth that the Irish Parliamentary Party had decided on that course, not availing itself even in that crisis and that emergency, of his handsome proposal. Now, gentlemen, there is only one single man of the Irish Parliamentary Party, whose name, if I should give it, you would hear with great amazement—there is only one single man whom I have at any time heard propose an appeal to members of the British Government for aid.

I think you will agree that this incident, which recent circumstances have induced me to reveal to the whole world is honorable alike to Lord Tweedmouth and the Irish Party, and proves that our independence has remained intact under great trials and difficulties. (Applause).

In truth, there never was a poorer party as to worldly means, than the Irish Parliamentary Party. You could not get a true representation of Ireland, unless it were largely composed of men of the people; and the circumstances of that country as you know

have prevented the majority of its people from amassing wealth. But there was never a party acting on such independent principles. What is it to us, whether leaders or followers that British ministers or British parties should rise or fall? (Hear, hear). We take no offices. We take no salaries. We take no honors. (Cheers). Our sole interest is to put in and to keep in the friends of Ireland, to put out and keep out the foes of Ireland; and our sole object in putting in the one and keeping out the other, and in mingling in the play of parties, is to advance the sacred cause of self-government for Ireland. (Applause). It is to this that we bend our energies; and we count confidently on our people here and elsewhere to help us in our struggle by the exhibition of their sympathy and by their material aid.

I think I have shown you plainly, freely, fully, frankly, first, what our tactics are, and, secondly, what are our necessities. I ask you by your voices and by your actions to show that you approve of our tactics, and that you are prepared to do what is necessary to enable us to prosecute this great and sacred cause to a triumphant end, I hope, a speedy issue. (Prolonged applause).

DR. WILLIAM B. WALLACE,

who was cordially received, then addressed the meeting as follows: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen—After this very excellent discourse that we have heard this evening, after this latest message from that battle in which we are so deeply interested, I may say after the brushing away that you have experienced of the clouds that have overshadowed that field for the last year and a half, it would ill become us to part to-night without giving back to those poor fellows who are fighting this fight in Ireland some re-assurance that we are still with them.

Let us just once consider what is it that is going on. Whose fight is it that is going on? Is it theirs? Are these men whom you have heard of to-night going through all the privations they have been braving, are they fighting a fight for themselves—

A voice—No.

DR. WALLACE—Or are they fighting a fight for our race? Is there any man in this hall to-night that can say to himself that the time has come when he can turn his back on this struggle without a blush of shame in his face? (Applause). I entered it, for one, when it was started, and I shall not leave it until the cause triumphs. (Applause).

Many of my countrymen are not of my way of thinking. It is evident to you we are not all of the same mind in this question. But I could not help thinking when I paid a short visit to Niagara when I saw the waters coming along to that mighty fall in the Niagara River so calmly majestic, and falling over that mighty precipice in all its majesty—I could not help thinking that calm as that was, it was not more powerful, not more grand, not more determined to reach the place beyond the lower lock than the rapids which boiled and fought and struggled between the rocks as they were passing over them. And I am glad to say that there are Irishmen of different views from our own in all these questions. I like to see them differ, because only in that shaking will come out the truth in the end, and history will be enabled to write, as it will justly write, the merits, the valor, the self-sacrifice of these men, one of whom has addressed you to-night. (Loud applause).

Come, gentlemen, if you be Irishmen; come, if you have any spirit of pride of race; come if you have not forgotten the blood and ashes of those who have gloriously printed their names on the pages of Irish history; come and do your simple duty. It must be done. It must be persevered in.

How can these men carry on this gigantic fight? You know they have no resources except what their own people give them. Are you not of that people? What then are the resources you have been giving within the last two years while these men have been fighting? There was a time when George Washington, who has given all this glory to this country, had to beg for food, had to beg for clothes, from the people for whom he was fighting. The snows in Jersey were red with the blood of his soldiers' feet. Irishmen there fought because they loved liberty. The hearts of these men in Ireland to-day, fighting that very same enemy, are grieving because you Irishmen won't stand by them.

Come, gentlemen, I invite you to-night. Begin it now, because this cause is not done nor sleeping. It cannot sleep. You cannot shirk your duty; if you do, no name of yours joins in the triumph that is about to come. We ask you to-night to send home a message, and I call on you here, gentlemen; I don't care how small you begin—with a dollar, with a half dollar, with a quarter of a dollar; it is a pledge that you will stick to your guns.

I ask some gentleman to start here to-night a subscription that we will undertake shall make the other cities of this Union blush—somebody of spirit. Do not leave the talking to me. Or, if you will, let somebody talk more eloquently by standing up in this hall and starting this collection.

The subscription was then started.

After Mr. John J. Walsh had addressed the meeting, the proceedings terminated.