

theory, only upon the strong view that the possession of such a law is essential to the integrity of the Empire that we can agitate or act with the effect in dealing with this matter. I am not disposed to act hypothetically. I am not disposed to deal with this question with its ifs and ands. I am willing to advise conciliatory measures and ample justice to Ireland. I should like the Canadian people, through their representatives in Parliament, to say to the Imperial Government, courteously, that, in their opinion, as 4,000,000 of British subjects, they believe that, the integrity of the Empire demands

SELF GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND.

So with reference to the clause that speaks of these men deprived of constitutional right of trial by jury, I do not understand them to invite the clemency of the Crown. I do not understand them to be charged with political offences. I understand them to be imprisoned under a law which does not call on the Government to charge them with any crime whatever. What we ought to have asked for those gentlemen is the restoration of the *habeas corpus* and a trial by their peers on any charge which the Government of England may think fit to make against them. It is not an application for clemency and mercy that they demand and that we should express, but a hope that the ordinary constitutional right of every

British subject may be extended to these particular British subjects—namely, the right of *habeas corpus* and of trial by their peers for any offense with which they may be charged against the law of the land to which they belong. I hope that the resolution, weak as it is, unsatisfactory as it is—falling, as in my opinion it does in those two points, in a manner which I do not admire, will yet pass; because it is not amendable, and it is infinitely better that it should pass than be rejected because some may think it too weak and others too strong. In this question I have shown that we are interested in many ways, although we have no direct voice in the legislation of Great Britain, notwithstanding we have a right to venture our counsel and express our views. We have a right respectfully to approach our Sovereign and strengthen the hands of Her Prime Minister whose sentiments are not hostile to reform. We have a right to give the influence of 4,000,000 of British subjects to the redress of grievances too long maintained, to attainment of rights too long denied, and so to enlarge the strength and increase the unity of the mighty Empire of which we form a part.

(On sitting down the hon. gentleman was warmly applauded from both sides of the House.)