

in Canada his name became endeared when he devoted himself, and gave his valuable advice, eloquence and assistance to the great Irish Nationalist Parnell; and the gratitude of the whole Empire, and more particularly of Canadians, was due to him for his defence of our rights in the Behring Sea.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, in replying, said in substance:—I feel, indeed, highly honored at the fact that so distinguished a body of members of my own profession and judges of your courts have thought it within their gracious and kind hospitality to pay this marked compliment to me and my friends who accompany me. I have to thank your Lord Chief Justice (Sir Alexander Lacoste), and the other learned brethren of the Bench for their presence here to-day. I am not sure from an incident whispered to me during the morning, that there has not been an interruption of the business of the courts on the part of learned brethren on the Bench, for I learned that the Hon. Mr. Justice Ouimet followed a course which only the greatest sense of hospitality could have prompted, and adjourned his court that he might do myself and the friends who accompany me the honor of his presence on this occasion. You, Monsieur le Bâtonnier, have made reference to me and to my career in my professional character, and some reference even to my political career. As to my professional career, what I have most desired to obtain, what I flatter myself and I believe I did obtain, was the esteem and approval of my brethren in my own profession. You have made kind allusion to the fact that I had the honor of representing important interests of the Dominion in the Behring Sea Tribunal of Arbitration. I had that honor, and I am very glad indeed that the efforts I was able to make ensured, at least, some measure of success for those interests. A complete vindication was established of the legal rights advanced by Great Britain, and a vindication of rights advanced on the part of the United States; and, although I am far from thinking that the Dominion interests were not somewhat lessened and somewhat restricted by that august tribunal, I feel most strongly that the fact of the establishment of that tribunal, presided over by a great statesman of the Republic of France, the fact that the great English-speaking nations had agreed to refer their matters of difference to a peaceful arbitration was a grand step in advance in connection with the relations between sovereign powers. Monsieur le Bâtonnier, I cannot omit to mention that on that great occasion I was assisted not only by eminent brethren in England, but also in Canada; but prominent amongst able men and most zealous for the advancement of Canadian rights were my esteemed and learned friend, Mr. Christopher Robinson, of the Toronto Bar, and another, although in the capacity of an advocate, but as the agent for the Dominion, was Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who brought the utmost zeal and devotion to the discharge of the duty he had to perform, and which he discharged manfully and well. You have made reference to one part, at least, of my political life which touches closely upon politics, still possessing a living interest, and dividing parties—the humble part I took, in conjunction with that most distinguished man, Gladstone, on the Irish question. I regret nothing that I did on that question. I am no longer an active politician, but I look back with pride to the fact that on the back of the first bill to give Ireland rights of local government, that on the back of that bill, in conjunction with that of Mr. Gladstone and that of Mr. Morley, my own name appears. I have said that this is a question which divides political parties; and I will not further dwell upon it, beyond saying that while in the part I took I was anxious to serve the interests of the land of my birth, my advocacy of that cause was not merely given for Ireland itself, but because in giving it for Ireland I was giving it for the interests of the whole Empire. I turn now from the allusions to myself and the friends who accompany me; and let me say a word about our own profession in