

fore it was his duty not to bring it forward at all. But there was more than that in connection with this, and I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without drawing the attention of the House to it. There was, in the first place, as I have said, the statement of the *Globe*, but in the city of Montreal there is published what claims to be an Irish newspaper giving the views of Irishmen all over the Dominion. Its own constituency will not satisfy it; it professes to speak for Irishmen throughout the length and breadth of the land, and it especially speaks in praise of everything that is said and everything that is done by the hon. gentleman opposite; and what was the position that that particular organ of the Liberal party placed the hon. gentleman on this side of the House in, whose duty it is supposed to have been to propose this resolution? I will read a brief extract from that paper's Ottawa correspondence, published on the 15th April, 1886, only a couple of weeks ago. This is what is said:

"It is said that a resolution will be proposed in Parliament sympathising with Mr. Gladstone and the Irish people on the prospect of obtaining Home Rule for Ireland. Should this be proposed from the Ministerial side of the House it will be understood at once as a Tory dodge to win back Irish support. It is hard to see, however, in what way it can benefit them. The Irish people are not to be humbugged. The records of both parties are before them. The press has shown the feeling prevailing in either camp. But the time has passed for resolutions of the kind."

That is what the Irish members of this House, at all events, were met with on this occasion. I do not think that I can let this opportunity pass without corroborating what has been said by the Minister of Inland Revenue with regard to our feeling on this subject. There is not one in this House who would not go to the utmost limit in voting for any resolution that might benefit Ireland in any sense that was considered the best by the truest friends of Ireland; and, Sir, in order that we might arrive at a just conclusion, the friends of the cause, those who were pointed to as having the duty imposed upon them of attending to this matter, met together; meeting together we discussed the question not in a party spirit, not in a spirit of seeking to achieve any party advantage, but every gentleman in this House, or in the Senate, who was present at that meeting, is to-day a living witness that the question at that meeting was: Will it be for the advantage of Ireland that such a resolution should be brought forward? In view of what has been said in the press, in view of the imputation which was cast upon us, in view, more particularly, of the unanimous vote cast in this House in 1882, a more emphatic expression than which this could not possibly have been given, we thought, Sir, it would be impossible for us to secure anything more forcible, and that it was desirable to let that matter stand before the world, before the eyes of Mr. Gladstone, who had received it and who had returned it in the contemptuous manner that has been referred to. That was the unanimous expression of this Parliament. It had never been appealed. No one had stood up in this Parliament and asked that a different opinion should be recorded, and we felt under the circumstances, and not only those gentlemen, but the best Home Rulers in this country whom I had consulted, those who had given their time, their money and their energy to the cause, also felt that unless we could secure a unanimous vote again in this House, or something tantamount thereto, it was in the interest of Ireland that the old resolutions should stand, which had been carried by a unanimous vote, and that they should not be disturbed. It was under these circumstances that we adopted the course we did. The hon. Minister was approached by one association in the Dominion of Canada, and that is the only association that has spoken throughout the length and breadth of the land upon this subject. No other Irish society, either Protestant or Catholic, had approached the hon. gentleman, either by delegation or by letter. Not one gentleman had ever ap-

Mr. CURRAN,

proached me. I had gone to the city of Montreal, I had appeared on the public platform there at the meeting presided over by His Worship the Mayor of Montreal, when these resolutions of the city of Montreal were passed. I had taken part in that meeting, and not one man, not one president of an organisation, had sought to impress upon me the necessity of having an expression of opinion from this Parliament. As I have said, I went out of my way to consult the best friends of Home Rule, and if we did not proceed it was from motives of prudence, from a true, sincere and heartfelt desire that what had been well done for Ireland, should remain well done, and should stand before the world as the expression of opinion of the Parliament of Canada. Sir, we had the organisation to which I have referred; we had the *Montreal True Witness*, the weekly edition of the newspaper to which I have referred; and we had the expression by the *Catholic Record*, of London, as to what this Parliament should do under these circumstances; but I failed to gather in the resolutions of the leader of the Opposition anything like an attempt to follow the advice that was given by either of these organs of public opinion. The leader of the Opposition has undertaken to present a humble Address to Her Majesty. Now, Sir, neither one nor the other of those papers asked for a humble Address to Her Majesty. If we refer to the *Catholic Record*, in which an appeal was made to the Irish members of this House—certainly not couched in very inviting or courteous language, in a portion of it where we were told not to be "dumb brutes," but there was another portion of it which I will read, as I do not wish anything to go upon the *Hansard* which would in any way mar the effect of the proceedings of to-day, which, I trust, will end harmoniously. The *London Catholic Record* said

"It is now in order to the Dominion Parliament to follow up its resolutions of April 20th, 1882, to their logical conclusion, and give Mr. Gladstone the benefit of a hearty expression of sympathy."

According to this paper, it is a question of passing a resolution of sympathy with Mr. Gladstone himself; something, no doubt, in the form that has come to us to-day in the public press from the Province of Nova Scotia, where Attorney General White introduced a Government resolution referring to Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, and resolved:

"That this House desires to record its warm sympathy with the noble efforts put forth by the Premier of Great Britain in the direction of giving Home Rule to Ireland, and express its sincere hope that his efforts may be crowned with success."

This body does not feel it necessary to present an Address to Her Majesty, but I may say that the course which has been adopted by the leader of the Opposition not only does not meet the views of those who may be supposed to speak for the Irish people of the Dominion, but it meets with their entire disapprobation, according to the statement of the *Post*. I think the House will admit that I am perfectly right in saying so when I refer them to the proceedings that took place a short time ago in the Quebec Legislature, when Mr. Carbray presented a resolution, probably a great deal more comprehensive than the one which has been presented by the leader of the Opposition in this House, and the resolution of Mr. Carbray was denounced as an act of toadyism, as an act of flunkeyism, as an act unworthy of the occasion. The resolution was as follows:—

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec, in Parliament assembled, desire, in our name and on behalf of the people whom we represent, to renew the expression of our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty's person and Government:

"That this House, always sensible to everything aiding the greater welfare, progress and happiness of every section of the Empire, desires to record its warm appreciation and great pleasure on the initiation in the Imperial Parliament of legislation of a character to give a local government to Ireland, and the prospect of an early action with a view of an equitable settlement of the land question there, whereby the position of