

HON. EDWARD BLAKE.

T. M. Healy's Second Attack on the Canadian Leader.

A Renowned Outburst of Venom - Healy's Charges of Infidelity Uttered by His Offensiveness of Conduct and Language.

We are indebted to The Dublin Freeman's Journal for the following letters, which will be read with interest in Canada.

75 Eaton Terrace, S. W. London, August 6, 1895.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.—The election of a great Conservative and anti-Homo Rulo majority to the House of Commons makes it my duty to point out to you that disunion in our ranks is ruinous to our National cause, and that the only means by which we can hope to repair the disasters which discord and insubordination have brought upon us are the thorough restoration of discipline and the genuine observance of the Irish Nationalist party's pledge to act loyally and persistently of an Irish united party.

No man can doubt but that for the unhappy events of the autumn of 1890 the verdict of 1892 in favor of Homo Rulo would have been absolutely decisive. Faction alone prevented this result, and unhappily faction continued since, and the outbreaks of discipline in our ranks have given the enemies of Ireland another lease of power in Great Britain.

In spite of all discouragement and difficulties the national spirit has once again asserted itself in Ireland with unconquerable resolve. But it cannot be doubted that Ireland would have done far better still, and Great Britain would not have done so ill, had it not been for the action of the so-called Irish Nationalists who have been endeavoring openly to bring back the Coercionists to power, and the still more lamentable blows aimed at the Irish party and the Irish Nationalist cause by the views and colleagues at the most critical moment of the election. It would be almost impossible to over-estimate the disastrous effect of Mr. Healy's unfounded charges against his own colleagues at the Omagh convention, and the authority of a leading member of the party and at a period of the election when there was no possibility of counteracting their effect upon the polls.

Mr. Healy's attack on the Omagh convention without any commission from the party, and with no apparent object except that of making this attack. The information on which he proceeded to act had been, according to his own statement in his hands for many months before. Had the charges been founded, to make them at this particular moment, without one word of enquiry or even of notice to his colleagues, would surely have been an act of treason to the party and to the cause. But when you remember that the charges are absolutely unfounded and untrue—grossly and ludicrously untrue—what is to be said of the conduct of anyone who chose that moment to place this position of affairs in the hands of Ireland's foes? For these charges have been the principal stock-in-trade of the Coercionists in Great Britain and of factionists in Ireland.

It is with deep regret that I feel compelled to characterize Mr. Healy's action at the Omagh convention as a display to the party, and, even setting aside our own special obligations to each other, as a breach of the essential to the existence of every political organization.

The Omagh scandal is unhappily only the latest of a series of attacks on the unity and efficiency of the Irish party. It is an endeavor that shall be the last. Convinced as I am of the injury such actions have already inflicted on our great national cause, and of the ruin which their repetition must ensure, I feel bound on the eve of the meeting of Parliament to address a respectful word of warning to my fellow-countrymen, and to inform my colleagues frankly of the views I hold—views which, in case I am honored by re-election to the chair of the party, it will be my duty to the utmost of my power to enforce.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

LETTER FROM T. M. HEALY.

Dublin, 6th August, 1895.  
MY DEAR JUSTIN.—I have just read your letter to The Freeman, and though I have much to do besides noticing it, it may be as well for me now to dispose of your communication. If you intend to challenge before our colleagues any action of mine, the course you have adopted in prejudging it by public attack on the eve of the meeting of the party is unworthy and unconstitutional. If you do not, of course you are quite within your right to try to divert public attention from the causes of the failures of the last three years by reviving an outcry against myself. That would be a move in the game which no one would think of blaming you for, and I prefer to believe this to be your purpose. Accordingly I may to ask your attention to my letter of the 29th of June, which, lest it may be mislaid, I append. I was written before the dissolution and long before the Tyrone convention:

Dublin, 29th June, 1895.

MY DEAR JUSTIN.—I am obliged for your letter of yesterday enquiring what date would suit me for the Louth convention, but it compels me to explain why I prefer not to interfere. Apart from the view that the claim of the Parliamentary Committee to conduct the elections of their colleagues and themselves without consulting the Federation Executive is without precedent and is unconstitutional, I am restrained from intervening about North Louth by a reason personal to myself.

An organized attempt, led by prominent colleagues, is now in progress to connect my name with suspicious and insinuations of "conspiracy," "place-hunting," "wrecking," "pledge-breaking," "Kough and Sadtlerism," and so forth. These charges cannot have been lightly

made, as if true, I am unfit to be a member of the party, and, therefore, I assume that proofs will be laid before my constituents and some more suitable candidate pressed for their acceptance by my accusers. Accordingly, as conventions can be manipulated and affected either by the action of their chairman or the selection of a particular date or place for the meeting, it is evident I should not interfere with any suggestion on these matters, but leave it to those who daily assert my unworthiness to make any provision most convenient to them for securing a verdict from the delegates which would release me from further responsibility.

In the meanwhile may venture an opinion on a more important topic! I cannot see why our party should fall in with the arrangements for facilitating the business of the Tory Government or treating the late of the dissolution as a matter to be settled behind our backs. It is three years since the administration of Ireland has been discussed, and to allow the Irish estimates to pass without challenging the new Ministry would be to extract declarations of policy before the dissolution, but to throw away a weapon for use thereafter in the case of Tories get a majority in the next Parliament. Of course a formal debate would be useless, as no more, and forces were re-assembled it would be evident we did not mean business, and no satisfaction would be afforded. The Municipal Franchise Bill, so important to us like the Tyrone, was brought forward in the Louth on Thursday, but apparently under the influence of some agreement between the outgoing and incoming officials it was silently dropped. Surely if no declaration of formal policy can be expected from Lord Salisbury here is a very easy means, by a Liberal peer moving the bill, of testing the Tory attitude towards Ireland on the eve of the elections.

This bill is the only one of the Irish party that has so far escaped the wreckage of several barren sessions, and as it extends to 150,000 Irish men and women a franchise which has existed many years in Great Britain, it may be worth while to exert some pressure in regard to it. Single-handed I can do no more, but if you think there is anything in these views and re-assemble the party for action, I shall forthwith return to London to co-operate in any policy decided upon by you and your colleagues.

Very truly yours, T. M. HEALY.  
The North Louth Convention did not assemble till the 12th July. The "Omagh incident" was on the 8th July, four days previous. Did not attend the Louth Convention, but left you or your nominees free to influence it in my absence. You took no steps whatever to bring my supposed conduct before the delegates in North Louth, though if you had put up a candidate in my stead I should only have thanked you. Instead of this, you began every evening by day during the contest, to try to alienate my supporters with lying accounts of my pretended action. Your letters attacking me while the election proceeded were equally insular in form by my Parcellite opponent, and scattered broadcast amongst the voters. I don't think this was straight fighting; still, despite every artifice, I was returned by a bigger majority than before, and I never once replied to my libellers.

In 1892, within five minutes of the news of your defeat in Derry reaching me in Louth (where my rejection there was treated by my opponents as a certainty), I wrote you a long letter, and a Tory opponent, now giving up North Louth, and quit the fight in Louth to make arrangements for your nomination in my stead in Granard. Such was my "disloyalty" to yourself, and your friends, and your colleagues, and more men at your back. Now, at the instigation of the publisher of "A Blackguard's Boast" and other scurrilous literature, you assail me, well knowing, as you must from Mr. John Dillon and others who were present at Omagh, what I really said there, and that the clandestine account of the proceedings was a mere Parcellite concoction. What I did say I fully adhere to, and neither you nor the Irish Party, nor any "authority," will secure from me either withdrawal or apology for the words I used.

The unpurchased labours of many Nationalists for ten long years had made North Tyrone as good a Nationalist seat as North Louth, and North Tyrone, as Lord Frederick Hamilton, M.P., had deserted the stronghold of the Abercorns and left only his solicitor to fight it for the Tories, knowing he had been out-represented by your men. I was invited to a meeting, and I alone was wanting to capture it, and these essential aids to local effort: the Committee "charged by the Irish Party with the control of the elections" shamefully evaded, and I found myself a candidate and funds in North Tyrone to fight a pledged colleague who had for ten years held the seat, and could try to force on the Bishop, priests and people of that constituency a man who could not secure enough votes to fill his nomination paper, and who had not got the vote of a single North Tyrone priest or delegate at the Convention.

But in North Tyrone what was your action? Under the Blake compact no delegates to the Tyrone Convention were summoned from North Tyrone, which you knew could be carried, while scores of delegates were brought from South Tyrone, which you knew could not be carried. You knew that the Tyrone Convention was a selection of a selection for South Tyrone was attempted. Your contrivance was, that the Solicitor-General of the Liberal Government should go North Tyrone, and at any rate that a Nationalist convention to decide on a candidate should not be called. This transaction I shall regard as a perpetual stigma upon its authors, and an utter breach of faith with the Irish Party, by whose authority your Committee proceeded to act. Accordingly, at a private meeting of delegates, I denounced the arrangement, and until the Irish Party makes itself the accomplice of Mr. Blake I shall maintain that the Party itself is entirely free from any kind of responsibility for what was done.

The pretence, then, that I "attacked the Party" is mere invention. Certain people seek to hold themselves out as "the Party," and try to screen their blunders by an outcry, when their follies are criticized, that "the Party" is

attacked; but as a humble member of the Party I decline to adopt their nomenclature and classifications, or to admit that they speak or think for me till they warrant me in doing so. Next to an exposure of the fraud on the Borough of Galway in 1890, when I stood alone with poor Biggar against Messrs. T. P. O'Connor and Co. I shall look back with satisfaction on my action in regard to Tyrone. You are quite entitled to say I had no commission from the Party at Omagh, No, nor in Galway. When has "the Party" ever been summoned to commission any man to attend a County Convention? It is "the Party" always that is referred to, as if that unfortunate entity had the smallest responsibility for anything done or undone, while its affairs are transacted by deputy without its cognisance and its remedy for remedying its, after the mischief is done to bring about a remedy by arrangement of the man responsible.

As to the delay in challenging the transaction, I reply that until I found, by questioning Mr. Dillon at Omagh, and MORE TO ENJOY AT THE GREAT TORONTO FAIR THAN AT ALL OTHERS PUT TOGETHER EXCURSIONS ON ALL LINES. Entries Close August 10th. For Price Lists, Programmes, etc., Address H. J. HILL, Manager, Toronto.

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