



Patriotism.

BY BENJAMIN RUSSELL, ESQ., D. C. L., M. P.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

I thank the Committee of Management most cordially for the invitation to be present. It is a very great pleasure to me to be permitted to assist in so interesting and historic a celebration. But if it had not been a pleasure I should still have considered it a duty to be here. Called for the time being, whether for a longer or shorter period, to be the representative of the people in their central Parliament, I feel it to be my duty, as much as lies in my power, to identify myself with everything that interests the people of the County in their political, their commercial, their social relations, and above all in connection with those deep and abiding interests that concern the moral and spiritual welfare of the community. It is a profound saying, that no man liveth to himself. Whether we will it or no, we are born into a network of complex and highly articulated relationships. As members of families we are bound together by the mutual obligations of obedience and protection, and all the ties of parental and filial, of brotherly and sisterly affection. As villagers or townsmen or citizens, we owe a duty to the primary political community of which we form a part, a duty too often forgotten, too often neglected, and the neglect of which in the great cities of the continent, has led in many instances to the grossest scandals and abuses. It would be food enough for one disconrse to dwell upon the theme opened up in this avenue of thought, but I wish at present to refer to a still wider political group than that of the civil and municipal organism.

I propose to speak for a moment on the larger subject of