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THE IRISH RACE.

Reception to the Canadian Delegates.

The pavilion of the Horticultural Gardens, Toronto, we learn from the Toronto Globe of the 28th, was crowded when Archbishop Walsh, followed by a numerous company came upon the platform on the previous evening. The gentlemen who had acted as representatives of the Canadian Irishmen at the Convention were given a right hearty reception, and in return rendered such an account of their stewardship as will go far to revive the old-time interest in Irish politics. From the speeches of the delegates there appears reasonable ground to believe that the convention has resulted in satisfying Irish public opinion, a fact which will be followed by an alteration in their methods or by their rejection at the polls. Father O'Reilly, of Hamilton, aptly summarized the effect of the convention when he said it had given fresh heart to Mr. Dillon, had revived the hopes of those who had begun to despair of Home Rule, and had warned the mutineers that they must make an end of their policy of wreck and ruin or be driven from public life. Dean Harris, with accustomed appositeness, impressed the folly of withholding support from the majority party, the very object for which the dissentients are striving.

WELL KNOWN MEN.

On the platform were: Archbishop Walsh, Sir Frank Smith, Messrs. Hugh Ryan, John Heney, John McKeown, J. J. Foy, Revs. F. Ryan, F. O'Reilly and Dean Harris, delegates; Rev. Dr. Burns, Hamilton; Messrs. F. B. Hayes, B. E. Hughes, John Hanrahan, D. A. Carey, T. H. Kelly, M. O'Connor, James Ryan, E. O'Keefe, Dr. Cassidy, T. Winterbury, P. J. Lyner, A. T. Hernon, P. Hynes, Jos. Connolly, J. G. O'Donoghue, F. A. Anglin, A. J. McDonagh, M. Walsh, W. T. Lee, L. V. Brady, F. Ryan, Rev. Messrs. C. A. McCabe, N. Murphy, Rev. Messrs. Allaine, Treacy, Grogan, Morris, Heydon, Crinion, Whitney, Sullivan, McEntee, L. Minehan, N. Mineham, Wynne, Walsh, Carberry, Canning, Aboulin, McCann, Hand, Gallagher, Brennan, Gearin, Kelly, Smyth, Teffy, Dean Egan, and Very Rev. J. J. McCann. Letters of regret were read from Hon. C. Fitzpatrick, Hon. John Coatsigan, Hon. R. M. Scott, Canon McCarthy, of Ottawa, Hon. Mr. Mulock, Mr. Peter Ryan, and others.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S SPEECH.

His Grace, who received an enthusiastic ovation on rising, said: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me sincere pleasure to preside at this large and influential meeting, assembled to greet and honor several of our Canadian delegates who assisted at the great Irish race convention recently held in Dublin, and to hear from them an account of that memorable and epoch-making event in the history of Ireland (Applause.) It will not be out of place on this occasion to give a brief sketch of the events that led up to that convention. The general election which took place in Great Britain and Ireland in the summer of last year resulted in the return to power of a Conservative anti-Home Rule Government, backed by an immense majority. At that election, however, Ireland returned the usual number of Nationalist representatives, but they were sadly divided amongst themselves. Though professing to labor for the same identical object, viz., the obtaining of Home Rule for Ireland, they wrangled and quarrelled about men and methods and frittered away their strength by intestine dissensions. An anti-Home Rule Government was in power and the Home Rule Parliamentary supporters, like a panic-stricken army, turned their weapons against themselves. The Home Rule cause seemed wrecked and lost. It is true the great majority remained united and in proper subordination to their leaders; but their efforts were paralyzed and their cause discredited by the destructive work of faction. The Redmondites labored hard by tongue and pen to keep up the unnatural strife, wishing to make of the name and memory of Parnell an immortal misfortune and a constant source of ruin to the very cause with which his name and fame are forever identified. (Hear, hear.)

THEY BROKE FAITH.

Mr. Healy and his followers, though pledged to support majority rule in the shameful party, shamefully broke their pledged faith and made the confusion doubly confounded by bitterly assailing the leading Nationalist representatives with the weapons of misrepresentation and calumny. No wonder that, under these deplorable circumstances, the enemies of Ireland should rejoice, and that Irishmen

abroad and at home should hang their heads in shame and humiliation at this disgraceful spectacle! (Hear, hear.) The Hon. Edward Blake (loud cheers) came in for his own share of obloquy and slander, notwithstanding the sacrifices he has made for Ireland and the immense and unpayable services he rendered to her cause. (Hear, hear.) At or about the time of these happenings the honorable gentleman came to spend a short time with his family, and friends in Toronto; and our Irish people decided that during his short stay it would be for them a duty of honor and gratitude to make a suitable recognition of his magnificent services to Ireland. (Loud cheers.) It was resolved to give Mr. Blake a public reception, to which the leading citizens would be invited, and at which proper expression would be given to the sentiments of esteem, confidence and admiration with which he is regarded not only by his fellow-countrymen throughout this great Dominion (applause), and at which also due appreciation and grateful recognition would be manifested of his unselfish labors, his loyal devotion and knightly services to the cause and for the honor and welfare of dear old Ireland. (Great cheering.) The Hon. Mr. Blake, who was then in poor health and strength, declined the proffered reception for the reason that he considered his health would not be equal to the strain and excitement of the occasion. In view, however, of the unjust and malicious attacks made upon him by certain Irish politicians it was deemed advisable that in my representative capacity as Archbishop of Toronto I should address to Mr. Blake an open letter expressive of the esteem and confidence in which he is held out here where he is best known (applause), protesting against the vindictive calumnies uttered against him and assuring him of our grateful and heartfelt appreciation of his invaluable services to the cause of our mother land. (Loud cheers.)

UNITY OF STRENGTH.

In compliance with the wish of our friends, and for the purpose mentioned, I published an open letter to Mr. Blake in October of last year. In that letter I deplored the fatal dissensions that rent and destroyed the unity of the Irish Parliamentary party, broke and shattered its ranks and rendered it powerless for good. Unity meant strength and life (applause) division meant weakness and death. I suggested an Irish race convention to be held in Dublin, composed of chosen representatives of the clergy and people of Ireland and of an advisory representation of the Irish race abroad. In that convention Ireland should speak out her mind, insist on unity and condemn faction. (Applause.) In that assemblage the voice of Ireland's sons abroad should be heard (applause), and their advice considered. Surely, I said, representative Irishmen in convention assembled, free from prejudices and passions, having at heart not the triumph of party or faction but the welfare and honor of their race and the triumph of their country's cause, will be able to concert and adopt discipline and compel due subordination in the ranks of the nation's representatives, and in this way will be able to secure amongst them that unity of purpose and of action so absolutely vital to their efficiency and success. (Hear, hear.) This idea at once commended itself to the Irish people at home and abroad, and like the click of the electric battery it quickly flashed a message of hope and joy to the scattered children of the sea-divided Gael. (Cheers.) Accordingly the convention was decided upon by the leaders of the Irish national forces at home, it was accepted by the Irish people abroad, held in Dublin in the first week of September last, and has now become a memorable and epoch-making fact in Irish history. (Applause.)

RETURN OF THE EXILES.

One feature of that convention was unique and instructive; and was touching and pathetic in its character—I refer to the large numbers of representative Irishmen from abroad who left their homes and their business pursuits, and at their own expense, and out of strong, pure love for their native land went back to Ireland to aid, if it might be, by words of counsel and encouragement the men at home in their struggles for their just rights. (Loud cheers.) The return of these exiles for such a purpose must have appealed to the great heart of the Irish people with a power and a pathos that words cannot express. (Hear, hear.) In the beginning of the seventeenth century the northern chieftains with some of their retainers took flight from Ireland to avoid imprisonment or death. In describing this sad event and its pathetic incidents poor McGee wrote as follows:

"Far on the sea tonight ye are—ye noble Princes and captains brave and ladies lorn. And ship-pent children, happy in your trouble, Who know not to what trials you are born."

"No port in sight—no nobly lighted mansion To greet ye in, lords of the open hand; Cleaning I see you by the sea-washed stanchion, Praying for any but your native land."

"For God in heaven will not permit for ever This exile of our greatest and our best, Who, for the faith, in lifelong lead endeavor, Upheld the holy Crusade of the West."

"They will return; O, God the joy and glory Of that proud day to all the race of Conn— They will return and in their story Find solace for the woes they've undergone."

BEYOND THE SEAS.

In 1847-8 and subsequent years there was a flight from Ireland, not of chieftains and nobles, but of the Irish people flying from the horrors of famine and pestilence and from oppression and tyranny. These cruelly tried people were flung like seaweed on the shores of America, Canada and Australia without organization or guidance. Poor, poor in everything save in their faith and hope in God, and yet this noble people, strangers in strange lands, "no star in the mirk sky to lead them on" have built up a greater Ireland beyond the seas, have made themselves bright and happy homes, have conquered the respect and good-will of their fellow-citizens, have won, many of them, power and influence and honor in their various walks of life. (Applause.) Representative men of these exiled people, men of influence and position, men of eminence in their various spheres of life, like the northern chieftains went back to Ireland to teach its people by word and example, and by the blessings they had achieved, the priceless blessings of well-regulated liberty, the untold benefits conferred on peoples by representative native Parliaments (applause), in other words, by Home Rule. May the lesson so taught be laid to heart by the British and Irish peoples, so that the paper union, that now exists between them being repealed and Home Rule being restored to Ireland, they may be united in heart and affection, laboring together for the peace, contentment and happiness of the united kingdom and for the strength, security and greatness of the empire. (Applause.) In conclusion I beg to congratulate our Canadian delegates on the able and efficient manner in which they discharged their duty at the convention. By their good sense, their ability and eloquence they shone conspicuously among the distinguished men that composed the convention. (Hear, hear.) I am personally and specially beholden to Father Ryan, rector of the Cathedral (applause), for the able and brilliant part he played as my special representative; indeed, he more than represented me, and did infinitely better than I could have done myself. For his great and patriotic work, I take this public opportunity of tendering him my sincere thanks. (Loud cheering.)

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. Patrick Boyle read the following address:

To the Delegates to the Irish Race Convention:

Gentlemen: The hope rulers of this city, in public meeting assembled, take the first opportunity to heartily welcome you back from the scene of your recent labors at the Irish Race convention held in Dublin. The idea of the convention, as you are aware, originated with His Grace, the Archbishop of Toronto. Love of the fatherland, we may be pardoned for saying, has always been a prominent feature in the course of His Grace's long and distinguished life, and thus we find him in the "sear and yellow" as well as in more youthful days holding fast to the great principles which underlie the free government of a free people.

His Grace being the father of the movement, it was but natural that we, his flock, should watch with more than ordinary interest the convention's proceedings. We were rejoiced to learn of the convention's magnificent proportions, its thoroughly Irish representative character, the widespread scope of its patriotism and the noble devotion to Ireland, pledged and proclaimed not alone by men living within her four seas but also by

the sons of the Gael whose homes are in other and distant lands.

It was gratifying to your fellow-citizens of Irish birth to notice that you gave no uncertain sound as to the sole and only object of your mission to the Irish capital. Your mandate was for a union of the Irish forces—the bridging of the dangerous chasm which separated the once invincible phalanx whose constancy and courage had paralyzed a powerful and hostile parliament and brought the Irish question within the range of practical politics. You cared not who was king. What you desired was that those who made the king should be one heart and one mind, and that all should fight under the flag around which surged the battle for Ireland's legislative independence. Your efforts in this direction were honest and sincere, as indeed were the efforts of the thousands with whom you associated; and although it would be too much to expect immediate results, there is still ample ground for hoping that the time will come, and that much sooner than may be anticipated, when the good work done at the convention will bear fruit in an imposing array of electoral strength and harmony, fresh from the Irish ballot and free from the deadly taint of discord.

THE OLIVE BRANCH.

Glady would your fellow-countrymen here have heard that the call to the convention was accepted by all concerned in the spirit in which we believe it was intended, and availed of as a means by which existing differences and estrangements might be discussed and reconciled in a friendly mood. That there were symptoms of dissent in a limited degree outside the portals of Leinster Hall was slightly apparent, but the cause of this was certainly not due to anything said or done within its walls. From the first to the last of the convention's session the olive branch was held out by every delegate, from the patriot prelate who governed with such grace and dignity down to the end of the credential list. All made it plain that the platform upon which they stood was broad enough for every man willing to forgive and forget and start anew in the crusade against the foes of Irish autonomy. And yet these men who will neither lead nor follow—men of mark and ability—Irishmen who have dealt many a trenchant blow to the enemies of Home Rule, not only held aloof from the convention but ridiculed and belittled its deliberations and personnel. More in sorrow than in anger will every true Irishman regard such fatuous conduct, and his earnest hope will be that those disposed to wrangle while the enemy is at the gate will in time hearken to wiser counsels and wheel into line.

But whether our refractory kinsmen take their proper place in the national ranks or not the fight for Home Rule will go on. Men come, and men go, and generations pass away, but a nation's cause can never die. This old maxim is nowhere made more manifest than in the history of our beloved country. Though beaten to its knees, alas, too oft by brutal force, yet it arose again and again, and today stands erect in assertion of its nationhood. The spirit which animated our ancestors still lives, and the heart of Ireland is still true to the principles for which many of them mounted the scaffold and suffered death. In proof of this we have your word that the Irish Race convention was, from every point of view, an eminent success, so far as success can be achieved by unselfish and unsullied patriotism.

TURNING OF THE TIDE.

The convention was in fact a great outpouring of the people's love of native land, and voiced their settled purpose to prosecute the war till justice be done a wronged and outraged nation. And the standard bearers in the old cause—the men in the gap—will not be deserted in the last ditch. Already they are receiving substantial aid within their own borders; and from without aid will also come when the appeal comes forth. Are we far astray when we say that the Irish Race convention may in a large measure be thanked for this encouraging turn of the tide which so long threatened to overwhelm Ireland's fondest aspirations? And who shall say that the men who gave shape and body and effect to the convention are not entitled to praise and gratitude for the result of their handiwork? You, our delegates, have borne a conspicuous part in outlining a policy which, if our kind and kin be but true to themselves, cannot be circumvented. We know you seek no reward for the sacrifices which you have made in undertaking an ocean journey that you might help where help was very much needed. The good that you have done—and done well—will be your reward; and when happier days brighten Ireland's horizon there will be a niche in her temple for those who did not

forget her in the days of her adversity. With a full heart we again welcome you back once more amongst us.

FATHER RYAN'S REPLY.

Rev. Father Ryan, in replying to the address, answered the query so often heard as to whether the convention had been a success. From both the character of the gathering and personal investigation subsequently he could answer without reserve in the affirmative. He had found many persons who before were opposed to the majority party, but who were now its ardent supporters. He had consulted men of all shades of thought. He had called upon Mr. Timothy Healy in order to form his opinion at first hand. He had found him a cordial hospitable gentleman, a man of brilliant intellect, but practically a hard man to manage. Mr. Healy based his hostility upon three grounds: The incapacity of the present leader, the improper management of the party fund, and the tyranny of the present management in the organization of constituencies. In all these matters, personal observation convinced the speaker that Mr. Healy was wrong. Mr. Healy's ability as a critic is of the destructive order, and is now being turned against the cause he is elected to espouse. This will be no longer tolerated. Unless he amends, his services will soon be lost to Ireland. The Irish people have now an admitted argument in the report of the committee on financial relations, which proves Ireland to have been paying annually into the Imperial exchequer an immense sum over and above her rightful proportion. The cause of Irish self-government had received a distinct impetus from the meeting and the speaker looked confidently to the time when Home Rule would be an accomplished fact.

Mr. J. J. Foy, Q. C., spoke of the convention as the most magnificent and inspiring gathering he had ever attended, and had no doubt of its effect on public opinion.

SORRY HE COULD NOT GO.

Rev. Dr. Burns, of Hamilton, told of his disappointment at having been unable to go to Dublin. He was "profanely mad." There would be, and there must be, no surrender of this principle of self-government. He fervently wished that his protestant fellows, of whom he recognized many in the audience, would espouse this cause with the same spirit as did the present audience. He had nothing but regret for the folly which drove into the United States every year thousands of men, who, because of ill treatment at home, were thereafter enemies of Great Britain. If Ireland were not a second Poland, Britain would have no more earnest defenders than the men of Ireland.

Mr. John McKeown, of St. Catharines, regretted the absence of Dr. Burns from this convention. One of the most convincing speeches had been made by Mr. Rae, a Presbyterian clergyman from Raphoe. Dr. Burns—Good for him!

Mr. Hugh Ryan said that to him and to a Toronto audience the all-sufficient answer to the charge of mismanagement of the finances was the fact that Hon. Edward Blake was one of the committee in charge. No amount of malicious fabrication could alter the fact that the convention of the Irish race was an inspiring spectacle and a far-reaching effort.

CHEVALIER HENEY.

Rev. F. Ryan here recalled one of the dramatic episodes of the convention by calling: "Stand up, John Heney!"

The venerable Ottawa delegate was full of enthusiasm. He praised the Chairman, Bishop O'Donnell, of Raphoe, as the greatest orator "from O'Connell to now." He had been personally abused, but the abuse passed from him "like water off a duck." The Canadian delegates were men to be proud of. The had "moved all Ireland." Ireland was now sold, "except may be a corner or two, and if the corners don't come in they'll be squeezed out." He looked for an early appeal from the Parliamentary party, and was certain it would be handsomely responded to.

Rev. F. O'Reilly, of Hamilton, in the course of a very thoughtful address, referred to the fact that Cork and Dublin, two most important cities, had held aloof from the convention. He was able to say, however, that in Cork, at least, the delegates had been very cordially and publicly received. Even were it not so, it is the farmers of Ireland who constitute the substance of her population. Unionist leaders were advocating more or less visionary agricultural methods as a panacea for the ills of the country, but national aspirations were still, and ever will be, the prime force with this most important element who, when the time comes, will crush out disunion and dissension. The parliamentary majority are poor. The dissentients have means obtained God

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