

FOR IRELAND'S CAUSE.

STATESMEN AND POLITICIANS ADVOCATE HOME RULE.

A Substantial Addition to the Home Rule Fund—Speeches by Hon. Messrs. Costigan, Curran, and Several Other Prominent Speakers.

A grand rally of the friends of Home Rule took place, on last Wednesday evening, in the Windsor Hall. Reports of the proceedings have been already made in our daily papers, but we desire to give our readers a full account of that great meeting. At the hour appointed several ladies took their seats in the galleries and the body of the hall was well filled with leading Irishmen of the city. Ex-Mayor McShane, president of the St. Patrick's Society, took the chair, surrounded by the speakers of the evening. The occupants of the platform were seated in the following order:—To the right of the chairman, Solicitor-General Curran, Ald. Clendinning, Mr. Martineau, M.L.A.; Ald. Jeannotte, M.P.; Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, Mr. C. R. Devlin, M.P.; Mr. A. F. McIntyre, Q.C.; Ald. Brunet and Ald. Bumbray; to the left, Hon. John Costigan, Dr. Devlin, Ald. Tansey, Mr. B. Tansey, Mr. M. Feron, Mr. B. J. Coghlin, Hon. Edward Murphy, Hon. Peter Mitchell, Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P.; Ald. Robert, Ald. Prefontaine and Mr. James O'Brien.

The chairman, Mr. McShane spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentle men:—We have met here this evening in large numbers, to congratulate the Hon. Mr. W. E. Gladstone upon the success that he has already achieved in having the Home Rule Bill almost passed through the House of Commons. The second reading has passed, and they are now discussing that question before a committee of the House. Every one of you know well, as you read every day the telegraphic despatches from England, that the majorities in favor of Home Rule are growing larger and larger every day: and, ladies and gentlemen, the citizens of Montreal will all feel proud to know that when it passes the House of Commons, that the House of Lords will offer no obstruction to this just measure of alleviation for Ireland. Before such an array of oratorical talent, I should be trespassing upon your forbearance were I to attempt to detain you longer. I will, therefore, call upon the Hon. Mr. Costigan, member of the House of Commons, a gentlemen, who, as you all know, has always stood forth as the champion of the rights of the people of this country. (Loud and continued applause.)

Address of the Hon. Mr. Costigan, Secretary of State.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—I accepted with pleasure the kind invitation sent to me by the St. Patrick's Society of this city to attend this meeting to-night. I did not think that I could contribute to the success of the entertainment by treating you to an eloquent speech, but I thought I would be acting consistently with my past record in being present in Montreal, when a meeting of this character was called in support of Irish Home Rule. (Applause.) I know you will be delighted when I tell you that my speech will be short. The resolution which has been placed in my hands is the shortest though perhaps not the least important. The duty of moving this resolution will be a simple one. The resolution will commend itself to this audience, I am sure, but before reading it, I dare say you will permit me to make a few remarks. I have seldom an opportunity of meeting the citizens of Montreal, who are for the most part, warm friends of Home Rule. I think we can congratulate ourselves, all of us who believe, not only in the principles of Home Rule for Ireland, but in the principles of free Government in any civilized country, (Loud applause,) at the progress already made. I am not very old, but I can look back when the question of Home Rule was not popular in this country, and the men who were connected with it were apt to have their motives and their loyalty questioned. Things happily have changed. To-day it is no discredit to uphold Home Rule because every fair-minded man, in every civilized country, favors it. The question of

Home Rule as now before the Great British Parliament, is not an Irish question; it is a question that appeals to the sympathy of the world. Many years ago the first great task was to educate the people to the justice of the demand for self-government, and to break down the barriers raised by prejudice against Home Rule. One of the greatest arguments used against Home Rule up to the present time, though used with little effect, was the cry that it would weaken the ties of the Empire and sever Ireland from the union. That argument has lost its force, for Home Rule now means the tightening of those ties and the making of a happy and contented people. In reading the reports of the great debate now going on in the British Parliament, every lover of freedom and fair-play must rejoice at the evidence of the great progress that has been made in the Empire. It is not a question of Ireland, it is a question of England and Scotland and Ireland, a question of the British Parliament, the greatest parliament of the world to-day, making its first measure, upon which the Government of Great Britain is prepared to stand or fall, the passage of the Home Rule bill. It is no longer discreditable, it is constitutional, and is being fought successfully on constitutional lines; and though delayed, there can be but one ending, success. (Applause, loud and continued.) This is encouraging to the people in the Old Land and to the lovers of the Old Land, in every part of the Globe; and when a restored parliament once more sits in College Green, there shall be such a rejoicing as was never heard before. Generation after generation has cried out in vain for this act of justice, they have passed away, but Home Rule is sure to come, as sure as anything that we can predict or foresee. (Loud applause.) I can only express my feelings of the deepest gratitude to the great leader of the English Government, who had made that measure the first plank in his platform and stakes his existence upon it, to the citizens of the Empire who elected at the last election throughout Great Britain and Ireland men to go and fight out a measure of Home Rule for Ireland. Their majority has been increased in every instance, there has been no falling off, there has been no way ring, and the division that appeared like a cloud over the Irish party and the friends of the Irish cause for a time, and encouraged the enemies of Home Rule to believe that it would be a fatal blow to that measure, but we have seen no signs of that. They stand solid in favor of Home Rule without differences of details. The struggle will go on and the fact of their having made the wonderful progress they have already made is a good cause for hopefulness. A country that has waited for centuries and pined beneath unjust laws, as they are admitted to be by Great Britain can even stand for a few years more if necessary to fight for the great end they have in view, and if they should require any further encouragement the Irish people know they have the sympathy, not only of the descendants of Irishmen all over the world and of every man who believes in fair-play and justice. Of course in this country the ground that I have always taken is that I am a Canadian. I owe the duties of citizenship to the country I live in but my sympathies are with the old land from which my ancestors sprang; and were my sympathies for the Irish cause ten thousand times as strong and as warm as they are it would be no reason to reflect upon my loyalty to the Country that I live in. For a man who would not be true to the land of his forefathers would be a poor subject of the land of his adoption. I have been identified in a humble way with the question of home rule since it first took shape in this country, and have always tried to act consistently in its favor to promote it. I can say that I have never believed that there could be any real objection either to my advocacy of the measure, or to that of anyone else in this country. Indeed no country in the world has a greater right to favor Home Rule than Canada; for do we not see the result that has been brought about this country by the freedom it enjoys. It is a happy thing for us to see the great strides that have been made towards the accomplishment of this great task, that the Irish people have imposed upon themselves of working out this problem. They have not resorted to blows or violence. Ever since Charles Stewart Parnell, the great leader of the Irish party

(applause) assumed the leadership of the Irish cause itself he disarmed the arguments that had been used against all persons connected with every reform in Ireland. He disarmed in particular the one great argument, for he being a prominent Protestant, leading a majority of the Catholic people who followed him truly notwithstanding the difference in religious views—I say that very fact weakened the argument that prejudice might raise in that Country and in this. When he undertook the leadership he laid down his plan of action on a strictly constitutional basis; so that it was under his skillful leadership that the movement made the great progress that it did make. When the question of Home Rule is mentioned from this day forward, and when the great task shall be accomplished, and the Irish people shall have obtained what they hoped for so long, the name of Charles Stewart Parnell will be gratefully remembered by the Irish people. (Applause.) And at the same time that Grand Old Man who is crowning a long life of public usefulness—whose brilliancy and eloquence are unsurpassed by England's great men, he is, I say, crowning his public life by a measure that will render his name dear to Irishmen for ages to come. As a Canadian myself, I feel proud that a Canadian has crossed the Atlantic, the Hon. Edward Blake, (applause) to render his aid to this cause, and he has contributed greatly to its success by his presence in the British House of Commons—and this in two ways:—he has contributed by his great ability, his profound knowledge of Irish History and his great talents as an orator, and also by his perfect knowledge of Canadian Constitutional Law, and of the working of the Canadian Parliament, thus enabling him to answer all the objections raised. Therefore, I say he is entitled to great credit for having accepted the invitation. Before he accepted the invitation I knew that it was coming. I was consulted by some friends here as to whether it should be sent to him or not and advised them to have the invitation extended hoping that he might accept it. I am proud of him, not only as a Home Ruler, but as reflecting credit on Canada by the manner in which he has performed his duties. (Applause.)

He then moved the following resolution:

That this meeting rejoices at the success thus far of the Home Rule bill in the British House of Commons, and especially at the support it has received from an overwhelming majority of Irish representatives.

Hon. Mr. Curran's Address.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL CURRAN was greeted with great cheering. In seconding the resolution he said: He felt particular pleasure in being called upon to second the resolution just proposed. An old friend of his, meeting him in the street the day before, had quite excitedly told him that he was opposed to Home Rule and that he was going to be present to hear the speech the Solicitor General was going to deliver and he would criticize that speech in the press. To be forewarned was to be forearmed, but there was no need of warning in the present case, he was not going to insult the intelligence of the people of Canada by pleading the cause of Home Rule, ninety per cent, of the Canadian people was in favor of it. (Loud cheers.) He was not there to plead the Home Rule cause, and especially before an audience in Montreal, where, under a Home Rule Government such as we had, English and French, Irish and Scotch, and people from every country under the sun were living together in happy harmony, making our own laws upon our own soil and living as free men. The day was not far distant when the people of Ireland might call themselves equally free with the citizens of the great Dominion of Canada. (Applause.) The cause of Home Rule had been pleaded throughout the world, and he was proud to know that the first city on the continent of America where a Home Rule association had been formed in the days of Isaac Butt was the city from which £500 was sent to that noble patriot to help him in urging his cause and in laying the foundations of the great movement that was to follow. That city was Montreal, and the father of the movement was his venerable and very dear old friend, Senator Edward Murphy. (Cheers.) He then went on to say that when O'Connell had achieved emancipation of his people he set to work to advocate the repeal of the union. No doubt O'Connell knew that repeal pure and simple could not

be granted, or, if granted, that the old state of affairs which had existed prior to the union could not be revived; and it was not desirable that it should under similar conditions, but he asked for the repeal, hoping that a measure something like that now before the British House of Commons would be granted. He exhorted and labored until he succumbed under the weight of the duty he had to perform, but his name would live for ever in the hearts of the people as their emancipator and as the master who first taught the Irish people that by constitutional agitation, by persistent agitation in season and out of season, they could achieve that triumph which, God aiding, was now almost in the reach of the people. The speaker then touched upon Isaac Butt's career. He had commenced life as the opponent of O'Connell. He was the hope of the old Tory party, but such was the clearness of his intellect and generous patriotism of his heart that O'Connell, at the close of one of his great contests with him, had prophetically exclaimed: "The day will come, Mr. Butt, when you will have cast off the livery of your country's enemies and you will manfully battle for Ireland's cause." (Loud cheers.) Mr. Butt had fulfilled that prophecy; he had laid the foundation of the great Home Rule movement. He had propounded his theory with a logic and an eloquence that had never been surpassed in the House of Commons, and he had made the road clear for his great successor—the idol of the Irish heart—Charles Stewart Parnell. (Prolonged cheers.) Parnell by his indomitable will and great strategy, had outgeneraled the combined English parties. He had fought the battle of the weak and routed the enemy. He commenced with five followers and increased his forces to 86, but he still had to fight with eighty-six against more than five hundred, and the eighty-six had carried their banner to victory. (Cheers.) To-day the great leader of one of the English parties, Mr. Gladstone, (cheers), was completing Parnell's work. The cry of the enemies of Home Rule was that it meant separation; that cry was as old as the hills. (Applause.) It had been raised when the movement for emancipation of Catholics was first inaugurated—the same cries, the same threats, the same forebodings. That measure had been abandoned in 1785 by Pitt, and when it was again brought forward King George the Third had stated to Mr. Windham, his secretary of state, that he should consider any one who voted for the measure indisposed towards himself. To Mr. Dundas he had said: "I shall reckon any man my personal enemy who proposed any such measure, the most Jacobinical thing I have ever heard of." To the Duke of Portland he said: "Were he to agree to it he should betray his trust, forfeit his crown and, perhaps, bring the framers of it to the gibbet." and the trusty counsellor replied: "He was sure the King would rather suffer martyrdom than submit to it." (Laughter.) Hansard of that period revealed the same speeches that were now being delivered against Home Rule. Yet emancipation was carried after forty-five years of agitation and the disruption of the United Kingdom had not taken place. (Laughter.) In 1812 Lord Granville, years before the measure was carried, had implored the House of Lords in these words: "Let us not delay the concession until it can be neither graced by spontaneous kindness nor limited by deliberative wisdom." Was this not a parallel here? (Applause.) The same old cry of separation had been raised on the Irish church disestablishment, yet in spite of that, after thirty years of agitation, it had been carried, and the empire had not fallen to pieces. (Cheers.) The land laws had been amended after years and years of agitation and years of argument that any change in their tenure meant a death blow to the autonomy of the United Kingdom. When in 1867 the morning sun of July 1st cast its rays upon a new nationality, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Butt began his Home Rule agitation. In this year of grace, after 25 years of incessant labor by Parnell and his friends, an alliance having been formed with a great English party, they were within hailing distance of the goal which would be achieved despite the false cry of separation. They had a special interest as Canadians in this great issue since one of their foremost men had enrolled himself in the ranks of Ireland. He had taken across the seas the reputation of Canada and had inducted the Canadian name. As one of our foremost states-