

served by bringing forward these resolutions, in order that he might catch the Irish vote of the Dominion of Canada. Well, the Irish vote of the Dominion of Canada is not so easily caught as that. The Irish voters of the Dominion of Canada can distinguish grain from chaff; they know who their real friends are, and are able to discriminate between those who are their real friends and those who are not. The fact stands to-day in the presence of the House, that not one Irish Catholic sits in the House except on the Conservative side. What the electors in 1882 did—that is the Irish Catholic portion of them—I feel satisfied they will repeat on the next occasion that presents itself, and therefore the efforts and labors of the hon. gentleman will have all been in vain. I do not wish to trouble the House with any lengthy remarks. No one feels more strongly than I do for the cause of Ireland, my native land. No one feels a stronger desire to see her relieved from the thralldom in which she has been enslaved. No one would go further in rendering a service to his country than I would. I have before my consideration to-night two resolutions. One resolution means the sending of an address to Her Majesty, referring to the Irish question, and expresses the sentiment of the Canadian Parliament thereon, and the other re-affirms the sentiments contained in the resolutions passed in 1882. I consider that the amendment moved by the Minister of Inland Revenue embodies the ideas and sentiments and feelings of the great majority of the Irishmen of this Dominion, and because I believe so I will support that amendment.

Mr. O'BRIEN. It seems, Sir, to be assumed by all who have yet spoken on this question, that this House is so unanimous in an expression of opinion in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, as embodied in the Bill brought in by Mr. Gladstone, or in some similar measure, as to pass in favor of that question by unanimous consent. Now, Sir, I, for one, view with the very gravest apprehension as to the result, not only to Ireland and the best interests of Ireland, but also to the Empire at large, of the measure introduced by Mr. Gladstone, and chiefly for this reason, that I do not believe any measure, which is the mere child of terror, forced on a man contrary to his convictions, contrary to the convictions of his own party and the nation at large, is likely to be attended with any great measure of success. Now, before proceeding further with that view of the question, I wish to claim the attention of the hon. mover of the first resolution, and I congratulate him upon this fact, that whatever the result of this motion may be, that hon. gentleman has shown that he has found one more point upon which he can stand and hold his party together, and carry them with him, in addition to the policy which was so fully developed the night before last, the policy of slander. On that occasion I noticed, whether from accident or design, he left the development of that policy to his able lieutenants, and certainly to one of them it was a congenial and suitable task. The hon. gentleman was not present to vote on that occasion. I can hardly suppose it was the result of design, but, at any rate, it had a singular appearance, when a proposition was laid before this House, a proposition which any member could hardly, in the abstract, have dissented from, that he was not present to take part in the discussion, a discussion, which, like everything else the hon. gentleman introduces, succeeded, by the personalities with which it was connected in the course of the debate which followed, in landing him, as it always will land that hon. gentleman, so long as he pursues the policy—

Mr. BLAKE. I rise to order. I would ask whether this is an allusion to a past debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Well, then, I congratulate the hon. gentleman upon the position in which he stands, and upon his peculiar suitability for the position that he has taken as the mover of this resolution. I hope this remark may not be considered out of order. He poses—I withdraw that word, because it implies a charge of insincerity; but that hon. gentleman stands in the position, among laymen, of a declared supporter of evangelical protestantism in Ontario; and yet he comes forward here as the champion of a measure which every Protestant in Ireland views as dangerous and perilous to his liberties.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Before I have done I will bring forward strong evidence on that point. The hon. gentleman, I say, stands in that respect in a peculiarly happy position as the mover of this resolution. It might be supposed also that as a great lawyer, as a man who has gained his eminence in this country by his practice at the bar, and by his knowledge of constitutional law which is often boasted of, he would not be so ready to support a measure which sets all law at defiance. There never was a system of coercion in Ireland to be compared with the terrorism exercised by the Land League since Mr. Parnell has been occupying his present position; and it is somewhat singular that anyone can be found to support a body whose recognised agents have endeavored, and unfortunately too often successfully, to carry out their measures by the vilest crimes that any man can possibly conceive of. Hon. gentlemen will remember that upon this day four years ago, two men who landed in Ireland charged with a message of peace, which, if there had been time given to utter it, might have very much changed the position of affairs, were cut off by assassination before they were allowed to utter it. Now, I have a word to say to the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue. That hon. gentleman has spoken throughout this debate as though he alone had a right to speak on behalf of the Irish members of this House. I should like to have that hon. gentleman's definition of what an Irish member is. I should like to know who are the Irish members of this House. Are they those who, like himself, are of the Roman Catholic religion, and are also supporters of Home Rule?

Mr. COSTIGAN. The hon. gentleman is laboring under a misapprehension as to the position I assumed in speaking on my own behalf as mover of the Irish resolutions. I have assumed that position in face of the unanimous vote given in favor of that resolution; and, as I stated before, I do not believe that position is binding on anyone who dissents from the resolution which was then adopted.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I accept the hon. gentleman's explanation so far as it goes; but I desire to say this, that I utterly repudiate the idea that those gentlemen who support Mr. Parnell's doctrines as to what is best for the Government of Ireland, can be said to represent what is popularly called the Irish people, except so far as they speak for their own following in that country. I want that hon. gentleman to understand—and I think I am perfectly justified in making the remark—that there is a very large population in Ireland who have no sympathy with Mr. Parnell's doctrines or his movement, and who do not recognise him in any way as a leader. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether an Ulster Orangeman or a Protestant from the west of Ireland has not just as much right to speak in this House on behalf of that portion of the population of Ireland who are opposed to the principle of Home Rule, who look upon it as disastrous and perilous to their best interests, as anyone who believes in the position assumed by Mr. Parnell. Now, Sir, I, for one, occupy precisely the same position as the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue. I