DAVITT.

Continued from first page.

MR. DAVITT SPEAKS.

Mr Davitt, when he appeared at the window, was received with loud and continuous cheering and waving of hats again and again prolonging. When the outburst of enthusiasm subsided the Father of the Land League said: "Citizens of Montreal, for once in my life I find it utterly impossible to say in words what I feel in my mind and my heart. Knowing how generously you have welcomed every representative Irishman, and as I have heard Mr. Parnell tell how magnificently you received him, I expected a hearty and generous *cead mille failthe* at your hands. But I was not prepared for anything like this truly magnificent demonstration which awaited me on my arrival in your city to-night. I would feel humiliated if I thought for one moment that this was intended solely in my account (cheers, and cries of "It was") knowing as I do how undeserving I am of any such splendid reception on account of any humble service rendered by me to my fatherland. (Cheers) But, as Mr Clarke has told you, I accept it—and I am sure will accept it—as a demonstration on your part in favor of home rule, and to support of the Irish leader and the great English Liberal leader in their efforts soon to secure it. (Cheers for Parnell and Gladstone.) I may on a more suitable occasion like this use the stereotyped language of public men and tell you how much I appreciate what you have done to-night for me.

A voice—We will not do enough. (Cheers.)

Mr. Davitt—But I will not let this. I will do it in a more satisfactory manner to you and to me. Cheers) I say to you to-night that I cannot be more convinced of a beaten cause than I am confident of a movement which is bound to end in certain success.

A voice—God speed you may succeed. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Davitt—During the struggle and difficulties we have had to encounter we never dared to entertain the fear of an inability in Ireland.

A voice—Never will. (Cheers.)

Mr. Davitt—Our determination not to be overwhelmed, and our courage rose from defeat to greater determination. (Cheers.) And to-day the cause is not only winning, but every true Irishman throughout the world has confidence in its success to win. (Cheers.) I want to express my gratitude to the French Canadians of Montreal for the great honor they have done me to-night. I accept their congratulations with all the gratitude of my heart, knowing that it comes from a people who have suffered oppression, but who knew how to beat down tyranny (cheers), from a nation who have fought for the rights and freedom which they now enjoy, for those constitutional liberty which we shall shortly enjoy in my fatherland (cheers). I am glad to find myself upon this soil, consecrated as it is with the blood of French martyrs, shed willingly for the cause of human freedom; and on behalf of the people of Ireland, whom I represent to-night, I thank you, French-Canadians, for your sympathy with Ireland and its cause. (Cheers.) This cause of Ireland is more than a local issue. We fight for something more than the right of the Irish people to manage their own affairs. We fight for the great principle of the equal right—that mankind has always should have the right to have access to those gifts created by God for the benefit of the people (cheers). We in Ireland fight for freedom, and we extend the hand of sympathy to the struggling people of every part of the world who are striving like us to win land for the people. Therefore, we, the people of Ireland, can appeal to the French Canadians and to the people of the whole civilized world to sympathize with us in the struggle we are engaged in to win for a nation the rights of which no power on earth can take away. (Cheers.) But I didn't intend to make a speech. I did not intend to do anything but offer as well as I could my words of thanks for the many kind and generous reception you have given me. I wish I could enumerate the many societies that have taken part in this welcome to-night. I cannot repeat their names, but I thank them one and all—Irishmen and Irishwomen, true workers, brave and faithful men who took part to-night in this demonstration, which I may call the largest demonstration on this side of the water since Gladstone himself became a convert to the principles of home rule. (Great cheering.) And now one word more and I have done. In the olden time it was the custom of Ireland's statesmen and orators to appeal to the Irish race throughout the world for sympathy and support. Now the Irish people, under their own young and noble leader, Mr. Parnell, (loud cheering), are bound together in an organization stronger than any which has ever before existed in Ireland. (Cheers.) While we, being thus united, look across the English channel and see the English people divided into two parties—one fighting the other—not on English issues, but upon the question of home rule (cheers), and thus, at last, do Irishmen adopt the policy of their enemies—"divide and conquer." (Loud cheering, during which Mr. Davitt retired.)

The crowd then dispersed after renewed cheers had been given for the great patriot, and an informal reception was subsequently held in Mr. Davitt's suite of rooms. The presidents of the different societies, who took part in the procession, prominent men in politics, business and in the legal and medical professions, as well as citizens generally, were introduced, and some time was spent in social discourse. Mr. Davitt expressed himself as highly pleased with the cordial reception of which he was made the object.

Mr. H. J. Clarke, president of the Montreal branch of the Irish National League, read the following address, on behalf of the united Irish societies of Montreal.

To MICHAEL DAVITT, ESQ.

SIR—The members of the united Irish societies of Montreal bid you heartily welcome. You come among us no stranger. It would, indeed, be difficult to find, the world over, an Irishman who would not hail you as an old friend, one in whose ears your name has not a familiar sound, to whose heart that name is not as dear as to his ear it is familiar. Though for the first time this evening we have the pleasure of meeting you, the fame of your services to the old land has preceded you, assuring you, even under the cold skies of Canada, as warm a welcome as could greet you even in the very heart of Ireland itself.

We feel that we can utter no praise that will be more grateful to your own feelings and at the same time more adequately express those of Irishmen towards you than in saying in words as earnest as they are simple, that we recognize in you him to whom Ireland owes the inauguration of that great movement which has already achieved such happy results, which is destined shortly to be crowned with complete success, him who nobly received and has worthily borne the title of "The Father of the Land League," a title, if we mistake not, first bestowed upon you in your own city by the Land Leaguers greatest son, Charles Stewart Parnell.

Permit us to express the hope that your recollections of your Canadian visit will not be the least pleasant of those you will carry back with you to the old sod, and to convey to you the assurance of our earnest wishes that you may be spared to witness the triumph of that cause you have so valiantly upheld, and that Ireland, "a Nation once again," may long count among her most loyal and devoted sons, Michael Davitt, "the father of the Land League."

We are, on behalf of the united Irish societies of Montreal: H J Clarke, president Montreal Branch Irish National League; Denis Barry, president of St Patrick's Society; Ed Murphy, president St Patrick's T. A. & B. Society; A Jones, president Irish Catholic Benefit Society; M J Shea, President Young Irishmen's Literary and Benefit Society; P O'Reilly, president St Ann's T A & B Society; M Loughman, president St Ann's Catholic Young Men's society; Dougald Macdonald, president St Bridget's T A & B Society; M Walsh, president St Bridget's Irish Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society; Thomas Flood, president St Mary's Catholic Young Men's Society; John O'Neill, president St Gabriel's T A & B Society; J Colley, president St Anthony's Catholic Young Men's Society; J D Purcell, president Emerald snowshoe club; Wm Stafford, hon president Shamrock Lacrosse club.

OUR IRISH LETTER.

Mr. Clancy's Pamphlet—A Resume of the Position of Irish Government.

DUBLIN, Nov. 17.—A most timely and instructive pamphlet has just been issued from the pen of Mr. J. J. Clancy, M P for Dublin County, dealing with the "Castle" system; and, as the true criminality of this scandalous despotism is but little understood by either our friends or our enemies outside Ireland, I think, perhaps, the most useful task for me to which I could devote this letter would be to briefly summarize its leading points. In the course of last year Mr. Chamberlain made his memorable speech on this question, in which he said:—

"I cannot believe that the great majority of Englishmen have the slightest conception of the system under which this nation attempts to rule a sister country. It is a system which is founded on the presence of 30,000 soldiers encamped permanently as in a hostile country (cheers of "shame"). It is a system as complete as centralized and bureaucratic authority which Russia governs Poland, or as that which was common to Venice under Austrian rule ("shame"). An Irishman dare not move a step, he cannot lift a finger in any parochial, municipal, or educational work, without being confronted, interfered with, controlled by, an English official appointed by a foreign government, and without a shadow or shade of representative authority. I say the time has come to reform altogether the absurd and irritating anachronism which is known as Dublin Castle—to sweep away altogether these alien boards of foreign officials, and to substitute for them a genuine Irish administration for purely Irish business." (Cheers.)

So far from this being an exaggerated description, it is in reality scarcely strong enough. Let me explain briefly, taking Mr. Clancy's book as my text, the way in which Ireland is governed.

LORD LIEUTENANT.

The viceroy, is the supreme ruler of Ireland. He represents the sovereign, but he is, strange to say, invested with powers in Ireland which the queen cannot exercise in England. Though he is nominally the representative of the sovereign, he is in reality the representative simply of whatever political party happens to be in power in England at the time. He goes in and out with his party, is a thorough party man and politician.

THE LOCAL GOVERNING BOARDS.

He rules the country by various agencies, the most important of which, probably, is that of the Boards. These are the Local Government Board, the Board of Works, the Board of National Education, the Fisheries Board, the Intermediate Education Board, the Board of Asylums for Lunatic Poor, the Prisons Board, the Board of Charitable Donations and Bequests and the Loans Fund Board.

Every member of every one of these bodies is nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, and not one man or one of any of these is responsible to or under the control of the Irish people or their representatives.

In England, it is true, similar Boards consist of nominated members, but this is the distinction. In England they are nominated by Ministers, who, if defective, are responsible to the people. In Ireland they are nominated by the Lord Lieutenant, and he is not in any way responsible to the people of the country. The result is the Irish Boards are outside Irish control, and, as a natural consequence, are utterly careless of Irish opinion. They mismanage their business, they squander public money, and they systematically insult the aspirations of the country. The "Board of National Education," save the mark, will not sanction the teaching of Irish history in Irish "National" schools!

POOR LAW BOARDS.

The only agency in the local government of Ireland in which the people are permitted to have any share, whatever, is the Poor Law Boards, and even here, as I will show, their power is checked in such a way as to make it worthless. First of all, *more than one-half of all these Poor Law Boards* is composed of magistrates, who are guardians *ex-officio*, and who are, of course, made magistrates by the Lord-Lieutenant. The remaining half of the Boards is elected by an absurd franchise, *under which a landlord may have as many as thirty-six votes and the average tenant only one.* To call boards if so constituted representative ones would seem absurd, yet they are the only bodies in the government of the land in the constitution of which the people have any voice whatever. But, in addition to the restrictions I have mentioned, the Poor Law Boards are all under the complete control of the Local Government Board in Dublin, nominated, as I have said, by the Lord-Lieutenant, which *may refuse to approve the minutes of their meetings, may set aside their resolutions, may dismiss and dissolve the Poor Law Boards themselves and appoint paid guardians to their posts.*

THE MAGISTRATES.

The next agency in the government of Ireland is the magistracy. The appointment of magistrates rests with the the lieutenants of counties, and they are appointed by the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin. Four-fifths of the population of Ireland are Catholic, but three-fourths of the magistrates are Protestants. In the county of Fermanagh, out of 77 magistrates, there is only one Catholic, yet in this county the Catholics outnumber all the other creeds put together, and the Nationalists have won both Parliamentary seats.

THE GRAND JURIES.

The principal local authorities in the counties are the Grand Juries. The members of the Grand Juries are selected by the Sheriff and the Sheriff is nominated by the Lord Lieutenant. To these bodies is entrusted the appointment of all the county officials, the repair and maintenance of the public works of the county—its roads, bridges, court houses and bridewells. They levy taxes, and, under recent Coercion Acts, they had the power of assessing the "blood money" to be paid in districts where outrages occurred. *The people have thus absolutely no representation whatever on these bodies which govern the counties and assess and distribute the taxes.*

THE POLICE.

In every part of England, outside London, the police are under local control. In every part of Ireland the police are as much an Imperial force as the army, being under the command of an Inspector-General in Dublin Castle, who is himself under the control of the Lord Lieutenant.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The Privy Council is the last department of the Castle system of which note need be taken. It is appointed, too, by the Lord Lieutenant. It consists of judges and ex-judges, of about a dozen bitterly anti-Irish peers, of about 8 Englishmen ex-chief secretaries, of one or two Government officials, and of five of the most unpopular men in Ireland, like, for example, Colonel King Harman, who in no constituency in the country could secure a parliamentary majority. Thus we see the entire government of Ireland is in the end vested in the Lord Lieutenant and his little ring of advisers in the Castle. He appoints every official, he nominates every board, he controls every function of Government from high affairs of State down to the pettiest detail of local concern in every little town and hamlet in the country. He is minister responsible, not to the people of Ireland, but to the Parliament of England, and in that Parliament the Irish members are in a permanent minority of about 1 to 5. I do not think it is possible to conceive a system of more thorough and complete despotism. The people have practically no voice whatever in the appointment of the laws (the Government of their country is carried on entirely without reference to them), but in direct opposition to their wishes. Does it not long upon the system which cannot stand discussion in the Continent, and even in Russia, cannot stand discussion, and even in Russia does not exist. The whole force must be pulled down. The only policy to apply to it is to treat it as it deserves in the class of unscrupulous, worn-out cave become a nuisance to society, which have become a nuisance to society, which have become a nuisance to society, which have