

State of Massachusetts in which out of a population of 1,625,000, the foreign-born people, if I remember rightly, number some 420,000 souls, and of these no less than about 240,000 were born in Ireland; so that more than one-half of the foreign-born population of the State of Massachusetts is of Irish birth, while if you add to those the number who are the descendants of Irishmen in that State, you will see what a powerful factor in the prosperity and the progress of that country is the Irish immigration. Of that immigration we want a share for ourselves and we want still more earnestly that those who choose the Republic instead of the Dominion, shall not choose the Republic with feelings of animosity and disaffection towards the empire of which we form a part, but with those friendly feelings which animate the Englishmen and Scotchmen who also happen to prefer, for material reasons, the Republic to the Dominion. Now, sir, there is another reason why we should interfere—we can speak with authority on this subject; we are federalists ourselves; we are experienced in the benefits of Home Rule; we know what it means; we know that it is our most precious possession; we know that there is nothing that we would part with greater reluctance or more difficulty than our

#### PORTION OF HOME RULE;

we know that there is nothing that we would sacrifice more to retain than our portion of Home Rule, whether you advert to that portion which the Dominion has in relation to the Empire, or that portion which the Provinces have in relation to the Dominion. In reference to the important Federation which exists between Canada and the United Kingdom, or the more perfect form of federation which exists between the Dominion and the Provinces, if any people in the wide world can speak of the difficulties engendered from the want of Home Rule, and the benefits to be secured by the grant of Home Rule, it is the people in whose name and for whose interests we sit and deliberate in this hall this night. Now, Sir, the descendant of Irishmen myself—my grandfather by the father's side a rector of the church to which I have referred, and sleeping in his churchyard, and my ancestor by my mother's side slain in conflict with insurgents, while it might have been my misfortune, had I been born and bred in the old land, to adopt from prejudice views very different from those I hold this night, yet, it having been my good fortune to have been born and bred in the free air of Canada, and to have learned those better, those wiser, those more Christian and just notions which here prevail, upon the subjects of civil and religious liberty, class legislation, and Home Rule itself, I have always entertained ever since I have had the opportunity of thinking on this subject, the sentiments to which I have given feeble utter-

ance this evening. I believe that these are the sentiments native to our own sense of

#### FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,

of forbearance and toleration, and a desire to deal with this subject, as the hon. gentleman said who moved it, in that spirit which says: "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you," I had been anxious that this discussion should be raised, and had myself prepared a motion on the subject when private circumstances called me from my desk here. On my return I learnt that the same hon. gentleman to whom the hon. member for Victoria had alluded has taken the matter in hand, and it was thought better not to meddle with them, or with the course that they, under his leadership, might propose. But although I remained silent I felt that it would be doing but a scant justice to the feeling of Canadians, French, Scotch, English or Irish, to suppose that there is any material difference in the intensity of their feelings on this subject from that of those whom the hon. gentleman who brought forward the motion more particularly seems to represent. I believe our sentiments are based on the general principle of political action to which we have been educated and which has advanced our prosperity and our intellectual and moral standing in the world. Now, I heard the hon. gentleman's resolution with some regret, for one reason that I find it emasculated. I find it very much weaker than the resolution which he put on the paper in the first instance. In some particulars it does not legislatively suit my view. He has fallen into something like the error ascribed to Mr. Gladstone, and not willing myself to repeat that error, I would prefer to vote for the best resolution we can get. Yet I

#### WILL VOTE WITH RELUCTANCE

for the measure which hypothetically refers to the grant of a measure of self-government to Ireland. The hon. gentleman says in the altered resolution:—

"And we would venture to express a hope that if consistent with the integrity and well-being of the Empire, and if the rights and status of the minority are fully protected and secured, sure means may be found of meeting the expressed desire of so many of your Irish subjects in that regard.

"6. We would further express a hope that the time has come when Your Majesty's clemency may without injury to the interests of the United Kingdom, be extended to those persons who are now imprisoned in Ireland charged with political offences only, and the inestimable blessing of personal liberty restored to them."

We have no idea that the rights and interests of the minority will be other than fully protected and secured. I believe that its best security is to be found in a united Irish people, managing their own affairs. I say that the possession of such a measure is essential to the maintenance of the Empire. There ought to be no ifs or ands in the expression of the views of the 'Canadian' people upon this most important subject. It is only upon the

theory, on possession integrity of act with t I am thetically. with this I am willi and ample the Canad natives in Governme as 4,000,0 that, the

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