

He received his appointment in the early part of the year 1872, and as soon as it became known, the people of Belfast determined, irrespective of politics, to tender him a public banquet. It was held in the Ulster Hall on the evening of the 12th of June, and no more distinguished gathering had ever assembled in that place before. It was a representative meeting, and people of every creed and class united in doing honour to a countryman of their own, and one who had so well deserved that honour. The rooms were superbly decorated. The statuary, paintings and bronzes, the softened lights, the rare plants and flowers, the rich drapery, the ornaments on the walls, and the skilful grouping of the flags, presented a scene regal in its magnificence. The guests began to arrive at an early hour, and when all had assembled the company sat down to a dinner of the most *recherché* character, the mayor of the City presiding. After dinner a number of letters of regret were read, including a tender note from Mrs. Norton, who contributed eight lines of a tuneful song she had once heard Tom Moore recite at the country seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne. After which the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed, when the sentiment of the evening was given from the chair. The toast was honoured with enthusiastic applause, when His Excellency arose and made the following response :—

MR. MAYOR, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I am sure it will be easily understood that to any one in my situation to-night it must be very difficult to find words, either simple enough or strong enough, to express his thanks. Those whom I see around me are representatives of all that