

Mr. O'BRIEN. What does he think of it now ?

Mr. CASEY. He has a different opinion now, but no doubt he was glad to receive the support of the Home Rulers then ; and if his leader had introduced a measure of Home Rule, his opinions would have been modified ; but, not imitating the generosity of the Home Rulers who supported him, he has shown himself since then much more bitter and outrageous in his conduct towards the mass of the people of Ireland than ever before. He has used in his speeches language which I would not be justified, with any regard to the propriety of the debate, in quoting. I hope the result of this discussion will be to adopt some resolution that will materially advance the prospects of Home Rule, and affirm in a dignified manner the right of the Canadian Parliament to approach and address the Crown.

Mr. CURRAN. The question now before the House is one of such vast importance, involving, as it does, so much, not only that concerns the material interests of Ireland, but the deepest and inmost feeling of a large section of the people of the Dominion, that I feel I would be wanting in my duty were I not to say a few words on this occasion, expressive of the sentiments I have always held—sentiments which have not been born within me since I entered political life, and which it might be, perhaps, to my advantage to parade, but sentiments which I have labored to promote, and which I shall continue to treasure until this question of Home Rule for Ireland is a settled fact. It has been the dream of my boyhood, the labor of my maturer years ; and I trust I may live to witness, and that before long, before my old age has come, the people of Ireland contented and happy under Home Rule, and giving strength, power and prestige to the Empire at large. My first impression, on rising to address this House, however, is, I am bound to say, that I regret exceedingly a certain portion of the remarks which have fallen from the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. I do not think that, whilst he has expressed himself to be a friend of Ireland and desirous of securing some expression of opinion from the House favorable to the principle of Home Rule, he has adopted the best means calculated to secure the result he says he desires so much. On the contrary, I think, when he opened his observations and counselled his leader, so far as he was concerned, to adhere to the original resolution which was laid upon the Table and not to accept the equally comprehensive but far more dignified course for this House that has been suggested by the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, that he made a very great mistake indeed. As for myself, I feel that no one can question my motives or my sincerity in this matter. I can point to the fact, and I do so with pride, that in the city of Montreal there was organised the first Home Rule Association that ever was established on the continent of America ; that the president of that association was my old and valued and patriotic friend, Mr. Edward Murphy ; and that I had the honor of being, under that old patriot always true to the cause, the first vice-president of that association. Ever afterwards, whenever the occasion required, I felt that my course was plain, whatever my conduct might expose me to—and it did sometimes expose me to something that was not very pleasant for one who had political aspirations ; that my duty was plain as a man, as the son of an Irish father and of an Irish mother, as one who had a deep interest in the welfare of the land of my forefathers, and who wished to see peace and harmony existing there and existing here in Canada amongst those of my race, and those of other races who have made this country our home, despite any inconvenience or unpopularity in certain quarters that my conduct might have exposed me to, whether it was on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Parnell to the city of Montreal, when he spoke in the Theatre Royal, and when I said in his presence what I say now in your presence and in the presence of the representatives of this country, that I hoped

the time was not far distant when, by the labor of the patriotic sons of Ireland, the day might dawn when they could exclaim in one breath "God save Ireland" and "God save the Queen ;" or when, again, Mr. Parnell was imprisoned by the Government of Mr. Gladstone in Kilmaham gaol, and my friends and myself called a meeting to express our sentiments on that occasion. However, it is not my desire to refer further to these facts, except in order to vindicate the position I take to-day, and to state here that I for one would not support the amendment that has been brought forward by the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue if I did not feel that it was better calculated to serve the purpose that we have in view, than every good and honest citizen has in view, than the resolution which was proposed in the first place by the hon. the leader of the Opposition. I desire to approach this subject in a conciliatory spirit. I do not wish for one moment to cast any doubt upon the motives that may have inspired this action, but our motives have been attacked, our course, or rather the course which has been suggested by the representative of our people in this Government, has been attacked, and I think, without at all wishing to disparage in any way the motives of the hon. the leader of the Opposition, that there are some circumstances surrounding his action in this matter which are far more suspicious than anything which can be attributed to the hon. gentleman who has proposed the amendment. There is no doubt that parliamentary courtesy is perhaps the strongest prop to a man's faith. The hon. gentleman has said he is sincere in this matter so far as wishing to eliminate all party feeling and all party advantage therefrom. I am obliged, under parliamentary courtesy, to believe that, but my credulity is put to a very strong test. I think, after all, if we look at some of the circumstances surrounding the bringing in of this resolution, we will be struck very forcibly with a certain number of omissions which the hon. gentleman has made. In the first place, there are in this House a certain number of gentlemen of Irish extraction and Irishmen by birth as well, and he never consulted one of those gentlemen before bringing in this resolution. But there was more than that. The fact that this resolution was brought in as an amendment to going into Committee of Supply must have impressed everyone in this House that, after all, there was something about such a procedure that would cast a little doubt upon the sincerity of the hon. gentleman's motives. But there was a great deal more than that, and I think this is perhaps the gravest omission of all. That was not the fact that the Irish members were not approached, because, so far as the Irish Catholic members are concerned, unfortunately there are only eight of us in this House, and, perhaps, although I believe there is no personal ill-feeling between us and the gentlemen opposite, there might have been a hesitancy on the part of the hon. gentleman to approach us, as none of us are his political supporters, but there could not be anything like a hesitancy, there should not have been anything like a hesitancy, if there was an honest desire that that resolution should pass ; it was absolutely necessary, in fact, that the hon. gentleman should have addressed himself, at all events, if not to the rank and file, to the leader of the French Canadian party in this House, without whose sanction and without whose approval, and without whose influence, perhaps, no such resolution could be carried at all. All these things were omitted. But we have still other circumstances that must attract very grave attention in this matter. We know that the *Globe* newspaper is supposed to be, to a very great extent, the organ of the hon. gentleman opposite, and that paper last week told us that the hon. the leader of the Opposition, not commanding a majority in this House, could not be expected to bring forward anything of this kind. He could not command a majority for anything he might bring forward, and there-