

if this House should not consent to my doing so, then an hon. gentleman at the proper time will adopt those suggestions and present to the Chair a resolution in amended form. In passing briefly in review the speeches that have been made in opposition to the resolution I proposed, I think it my duty to do so in the kindest spirit, although a certain amount of violence of language was used, more particularly by the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien). It is not my intention to discuss the speech which that hon. gentleman has delivered on the floor of this House. I think that the hon. member is not altogether responsible for the speech that he has delivered here. In fact, in the most good natured manner I can possibly put it, I would say that I really believe that the hon. gentleman came into this world about eighty years after his time. He should have figured in the old days when "they were hanging men and women for the wearing of the green." Certainly I cannot say anything more severe of him, because I actually prefer that he should give me the blunt, direct opposition he has given me on the present occasion to the peculiarly unfortunate support he gave myself and friends at the time the Home Rule question was before the House last Session. I now proceed to allude briefly to the speech delivered by the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) who moved the amendment. I certainly cannot complain of the tone in which he discussed this question; in fact, I ought to be grateful for the exceedingly complimentary manner in which he alluded to myself and the observations I made. However, if he is not with us, if he has a strong love, as he says he has, for the old land; if he be an Irishman—and no doubt he is—and loves Ireland, I think there is one thing pretty clear, and that is that he loves England and the British Government, of the present day, a great deal better. He will not be convinced by what has convinced the whole civilised world. He would not be convinced by what has drawn forth the blame and censure of nearly every journal you take in your hands, from either the neighboring Republic or the Dominion of Canada. He will not say that the system of coercion should be changed. He cannot find it in his heart to express even a regret that that system should not be changed. On the contrary, he absolutely refrains from saying one word in connection with this drastic measure, which has been foreshadowed as something which would completely eclipse anything in the shape of coercion that has taken place for many years past; he cannot find it in his heart to blame that, or to say one word with reference to it in connection with the gentlemen who are now controlling affairs in the Imperial Parliament. But, Sir, I believe the hon. gentleman will allow me to say that he belongs to the Orange organisation, and that there is one thing at all events, as a newspaper said a short time ago, that we can feel a certain amount of pleasure in, and it is this: that even a member of that organisation, with its past history, having lived in this Canada of ours, having enjoyed Home Rule and seen its influence and its benefits in bringing men together of the most diverse opinions on other subjects, has brought forward a resolution, no doubt speaking in the name of those with whom he is associated, in which he has declared emphatically that he reiterates the good wishes for Home Rule that have been expressed in this House on two occasions, and that he himself would like to see, and those for whom he speaks would like to see, a measure of Home Rule which would satisfy the Irish people and at the same time give protection to the minority in Ireland. No man in this country, of any party, can object to such protection being given, to checks and guarantees in the constitution being given, to the minority in Ireland, just the same as we have checks and guarantees for the protection of the minority in each of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. And although in the Province of Ontario a howl was raised some time ago, and an attempt made to impress on

the people the idea that those checks and guarantees and rights should be interfered with, one thing is certain, throughout the length and breadth of the land the cry went up from the Canadian people, not merely where that unfortunate and nefarious cry was raised, but everywhere throughout the length and breadth of Canada, that the crusade inaugurated on that occasion against the rights of the minority would not be tolerated, and the electorate of the Province where the cry was raised showed that they did not appreciate that attempt. For my own part I have no hesitation—Home Ruler as I am to day, and as I have been since I was a boy, taking an active part in support of Home Rule, as I have on the platform and in the press, and subscribing my money on every occasion when the call was made to advance that cause—I have no hesitation in saying that I trust that the greatest provision for such protection will be made in the Parliament of Ireland; and in the constitution which is to be given to Ireland within a brief space of time. I believe ample protection will be given to the Protestant minority there, and the same guarantees given to that section of people that are given to the minorities in the various Provinces in the Dominion. Now I leave the hon. gentleman I trust without any harsh feelings. I trust I have not said a word which will cause him to feel that I have spoken in any other than the most friendly spirit, and I shall allude for a few moments to the speech delivered by the hon. member for Simcoe which has been admirably answered this afternoon by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills). The latter gentleman has, indeed, relieved me from the greater part of the duty I had to perform. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy), opened his speech with the declaration that he himself was a descendant of the Irish race, that he was proud to belong to that race, and that he did not hesitate to say so here or elsewhere; and, Sir, if he be proud of belonging to the Irish race, so far as his intellectual gifts, his eloquence, and his power of argumentation—even though it be of a sophisticated kind when he has a bad case—are concerned, Ireland has no reason but to be proud of him. But those who have the Irish cause at heart have reason to grieve that one so highly gifted as he is should be found delivering the oration that he did in this House against the proposition I have laid before you, designed to give expression to the sympathy of the people of Canada for Home Rule for Ireland, and their regret that such a measure as that now before the British Parliament should become law. I said a moment ago that the hon. gentleman's arguments, though brilliant, are mere sophistry. I say so with all respect to the hon. gentleman; but I think it will be admitted by any one who knows anything at all about law, or who has ever had a gown upon his back in the courts of this or any other country, that when he comes before this House and tells us that the law has not been changed, but merely that the procedure in courts has been interfered with, he intends to impose upon the credulity of people outside, who are not acquainted with the subject as fully as most gentlemen who occupy seats in this House. Why, Sir, does he pretend to say that because the law has not been changed, there can be no oppression? What is the procedure of our criminal law? Why, Sir, it is the prisoner's protection. It is that which has grown up after years and years of experience, hedging in the rights of the subject against oppression and injustice. If you take away the protection which is extended to the vilest criminal in our courts—the right to preliminary examination, the right to cross-examine witnesses, the right to be brought before the grand jury, and to be tried before a jury where he has his challenge preemptory, and for cause—all these safeguards which have been thrown about the citizen to protect him in his liberties—what will be the condition of those unfortunate men in Ireland who happen to be, not accused, but suspected, and dragged to gaol by a Star Chamber of magistrates not versed in the law? Because, when the question was asked