

PRETTY MISS NEVILLE

BY B. M. OSORNA  
CHAPTER XXXVII

MRS. VANE GIVES ME A PIECE OF HER MIND  
Exceedingly wise, fair-spoken, and persuading.—Henry VIII.

Mrs. Vane and Major Percival did not coalesce; although their mutual dislike was decently veiled under a mask of conventional politeness, there was an undercurrent in their conversation painfully perceptible to my experienced ear, and I was continually on thorns, lest one of her winged sarcasms or his pointed rejoinders would lead to an open rupture. It was not to be expected that a lady of Mrs. Vane's candid disposition would long leave me in the dark as to her opinion of my choice. One morning as we were arranging flowers in the dining-room, and making floral preparations for a grand dinner party, she began with the abrupt question:

"Well, and when is it to be?"  
"At 8 o'clock sharp, as usual," I returned demurely.  
"Stuff and nonsense; I'm not thinking of the dinner, I am alluding to your wedding, my good girl!"  
"Oh, in two months' time, I believe," I answered, with ill-assumed composure, carefully sorting some choice roses from a large pile in front of me, without raising my eyes.  
"Indeed! Well, I shall not grace the ceremony. I am going down to meet George in Bombay next month."  
"But you will come back, of course?" I asked, anxiously.  
"No, my dear child, why should I come back? It will give me no pleasure to see you married to Major Percival," she continued, suddenly throwing down a handful of maiden hair and seating herself opposite to me, with her elbows on the table and her eyes fastened on my face and her chin in her hands. "I suppose it has gone too far; you could not get out of it now, could you?"

"For all reply I paused with a jug of water in mid air, and gazed at her in stupefied amazement.  
"I wish you would tell me one thing before I go away. Why did you ever become engaged to Major Percival?"  
"Why do people generally become engaged?" I answered, vaguely, drawing a large epergne toward me, and filling in the upper part with some lovely feathery ferns.  
"Whatever possessed you I cannot imagine," she went on irritably. "He is the type of all others I most detest—an egotistical, selfish, elderly dandy. He is a notorious flirt," reckoning on her fingers.

"So are you," I answered, promptly.  
"He is greedy!"  
"So are most men, and many women."  
"He is more than double your age."  
"So is your husband, I responded, triumphantly.  
"Ah, very true, but they are as different as chalk from cheese. My George is a mere boy in comparison; his heart is young."  
"You have always been prejudiced against Major Percival, and have certainly been at pains to conceal your opinion," I replied, an angry spot on either cheek.  
"Well, no, I never can play the hypocrite," she answered, with cheer full complacency, "and I am often amazed at my own self-restraint, when I find myself in his company."  
"I don't think you have much occasion to flatter yourself on that point," I answered sarcastically.

"His conversation has the effect of a rasp on my sensitive organization; it is my—my—my, or I—I—I, all day long; and to see him in church, where perforce he is silent—on a gaitered foot in the aisle, his chest well thrown forward, his hands behind his back, his glass in his eye, dispensing dignified patronage to his fellow-worshippers—Pharisee is stamped on him; it maddens me to see him!"  
"I wish you would go on with your flowers, Violet," I observed impatiently, "and leave Major Percival alone. What a bitter little enemy you would be—a regular little wasp!"  
"I must speak my mind, if I die for it, sometimes," she replied, picking out a few buds, and holding them up to her dainty nose. "I cannot think what you see in the great man, Nora. I know that his position, and his money, and his title weigh very little in your opinion. I sometimes fancy you must have accepted him to please your aunt. I know you do not love him. If you went down on your two bended knees and swore to me, I would not believe you—so there!"  
"Look here, Violet!" I exclaimed, angrily. "I won't listen to any more of this. It is very unkind of you to speak in this way—of—of my future husband"—bringing out the word with an effort. "You can see no good in him, I know; but all the same, he is clever, agreeable, gentlemanly—"

"Of course, of course," she interrupted, putting up her hands, "and it is very proper of you to stand up for him and defend him. And now, shall I tell you, as I feel in the vein, why he is marrying you?" she proceeded, with redoubled animation.  
"No, do not," I replied, with a gesture of appeal.  
"He is carrying away the prize from various competitors," she proceeded, unabashed. "This fact alone piques his overweening vanity. You are the 'pretty Miss Neville'; you had what he would call 'le succès fou' last season in the hills. He admires your beauty

and style, and once you are Mrs. P., he will start you as a professional. He is immensely vain of you; but he does not love you, no, not an atom. All his affections are entirely centered in himself."  
"You are wrong, quite wrong," I interrupted, hastily.  
"Mrs. Vane regarded me with unusually grave eyes, and then replied.  
"Do you know that it gives me a very painful feeling to see you together; he is so proudly complacent, so politely effeminate, so graciously ready to be pleased; and you, so different to your real nature—cold, inanimate, and formal, so changed to what you used to be when Maurice Beresford was here."

"It was well for me that the epergne was now fully clothed with flowers and ferns, and effectually screened my sudden blushes from Mrs. Vane's sharp eyes.  
"One thing more I must and will say," she continued, earnestly.  
"Do not," I exclaimed, impatiently, "for I warn you that we shall quarrel. I am at the end of my tether."  
"My very last word," she persisted, standing up and looking at me undauntedly. "Should you ever change your mind—of which I have but little hope, for you have no self-assertion and no moral courage—come to me. When all Mulgrave is up in arms; when your uncle and auntie are beside themselves with indignation; when Major Percival has made a holocaust of your letters, and left you in a whirlpool of rage and disappointment—come, I say, to me, and I will be your ark. I warn you that, if you let things take their course, you will be a miserable girl, and I shall pity you from the bottom of my heart."

"Keep your pity," I replied. "I don't think I shall require it," still presenting a bold front to this audacious little person.  
"Don't you? You fancy that, Nora, Lady Rodcaster—"  
"Who is talking of Lady Rodcaster?" said auntie, busting into the room. "Oh, how lovely!" apostrophizing my handiwork. "Good practice for the wedding *déjeuner*, eh, Violet? By the way, I must ask Jim to see about borrowing a durbar tent; this room will never hold half the people. What do you say, Nora? not even with a horseshoe table."

"I muttered some unintelligible reply, and then I picked up a basket, escaped from the discussion, on the pretense of getting some more ferns. But once out in the fernery I sat down on a piece of rock, with my basket at my feet, and gave myself entirely up to thought. I felt very indignant with Mrs. Vane for her outspokenness, the more so that I had a dim inward conviction that what she said was perfectly true. Love is proverbially blind, and I, not being in love, had no difficulty in seeing Major Percival's little shortcomings. I could not conceal from myself that he was egotistical, that he was shabby about money in little things, that he laid down the law in a manner that exasperated uncle to the very bounds of politeness; he was a hypocrite too, and delivered daily bulletins as to the state of his health, and how he had slept, and the condition, past and present, of his liver. What would have been exceedingly entertaining in any one else I found quite intolerable in my future husband, and I already felt a guilty partnership with him when I intercepted one of uncle's sarcastic glances on its way to meet one of Mrs. Vane's malicious smiles. How different to Maurice, who had been badly wounded in the late war, and who never alluded in the most distant manner to his health or his exploits.

Major Percival was, I could see, extremely proud of me, of my singing, and my general appearance. He took the deepest interest in the condition of my voice and the state of my complexion, and if I were hoarse or sunburnt, was quite eloquently energetic in his remedies and remonstrances. To venture into the compound without gloves or veil was in his eyes little less than a crime.  
All these unpleasant discoveries did not come to me at once, only by degrees. Week followed week, very, very slowly; each as it ended brought me nearer and nearer to my wedding morning; and every day, as it rose, I drenched the next more, every day I liked my future husband less.

"TO BE CONTINUED"

A GREAT PATRON SAINT

The Rev. Michael Kenny, S. J., contributes to America an article on his name saint—the great Archangel. Wondering how many of those who bear the name received it at American baptismal fonts, he relates this incident:  
"A gentleman having recently selected it for his new-born heir, the lady sponsor mildly objected that it might subject the youth to future inconveniences as in this country the name is somewhat unpopular. The father, who owned and gloried in it, replied: 'Maybe so; anyhow it's very unpopular in hell, Michael is his name. He can't get a better one to fight the devil with, and the world too; and he needs no middle name to go between it and his surname. If he can't win his battles with St. Michael, what name would help him? Is there any other that would tribute God more and the devil less?' The wife, Father Kenny points out that Michaels are numerous wherever Christianity

flourishes, that the name was dropped by the Jews when they lost their mission, and dropped in Protestant lands "as soon as they lost their Catholicity." In Germany St. Michael replaced the war-god Wotan; in Belgium a great cathedral is dedicated to him; in Japan among the people who had preserved the Faith, handed down to them without priest or altar, through centuries of persecution, five out of every twelve Catholic males bore the name Michael; in Poland St. Michael is a national hero; and in modern Ireland the prevalence of the name is almost as remarkable as in Japan. An instance is narrated:  
"In the early seventies, Father Michael Driscoll, S. J., decided the title of a new church he was building in Troy, N. Y., by the name that prevailed in his committee. There were eight Michaels and seven Patricks. It was not always so in Catholic Ireland. Before the assault of Protestantism there was great devotion to St. Michael, but there are few records of Irishmen who bore the name. Michael Scot, the great Catholic scientist who was nominated to the archbishopric of Cashel, was probably not an Irishman, and the first of distinction we meet receives a part of it from Protestant persecution. This was Michael O'Clery, poet, archeologist, historian, patriot and holy Francis-like missionary, who gathered up the remnants of Ireland's storied past in the 'Annals of the Four Masters,' and who represents his great patron in Ireland as Miguel de Cervantes (who gloried more in the hand he lost fighting for the Cross at Lepanto than in the hand that wrote Don Quixote) does in Spain, and as Michael Angelo in the universe of genius."

"But when the Irish persecutions lifted there was scarcely a family in Ireland but had its Michael. The great Archangel had again conquered the dragon."—Sacred Heart Review.

IRELAND'S CLAIMS

PRESENTED IN A MASTERLY AND GRAPHIC SPEECH BY JOHN REDMOND, M. P.

Mr. John Redmond, M. P., the Irish leader, delivered an address on Saturday, Nov. 15, in Newcastle-on-Tyne, which has only been briefly alluded to in the cable services. Sir Walter Runciman presided, and among those present were Mr. Thos. Burt, M. P.; Mr. Charles Fenwick, M. P., and Mr. John Wilson, M. P.

Mr. Redmond, who on rising to speak was given a hearty welcome, said: "Allow me to commence what I have to say by thanking you most sincerely for the extremely kind reception that you have given to me. (Cheers.) It is something for an Irish leader to be proud of, that he can find as cordial and as enthusiastic a welcome on British soil as a British audience—(cheers)—as he can receive in his own land from his own people. I trust the enthusiasm of your welcome is due to some extent to the fact that you recognize in me not merely an Irishman come here to plead the cause of his country but a man who is sincerely desirous to be friends with the people of England—(loud cheers)—and who has done his best all through a somewhat long career in the House of Commons to support by voice and vote every measure designed for the benefit of the masses of the British people. We meet here to-night at a moment of exceptional political interest, at a moment when with the greatest possible political consequences not only to Ireland, but to the future of all those great causes upon which the welfare of the people of Great Britain depend. I am here to speak to you on the Irish question, but I recognize, and I am glad to recognize, that bound up with the fate of the Irish question is the fate also of the entire democratic cause in Great Britain. (Cheers.) The opposition to Home Rule is in certain quarters vehement, and it might be said passionate. But I venture to suggest to you that the vehemence and the passion of that opposition are not inspired so much by hostility to the measure of Home Rule as by the desire to destroy the Parliament Act and to restore the veto of the House of Lords. (Hear, hear.) So far as the Home Rule question is concerned our opponents have absolutely failed in influencing the intelligence of the country. (Cheers.) They have been arguing about the Home Rule Bill and Home Rule question now continuously for two years, and their argument, on their own admission, has failed. It has failed in Parliament, it has failed on the platform, and it has failed on the hustings, and now, admitting as they do that their argument has failed, they are engaged in a last desperate effort to intimidate the people of this country—(cheers)—whom they have utterly failed to persuade or convince. They are engaged in a gigantic game of bluff and of blackmail, and I may say that the people of Great Britain would be both fools and cowards if that game were allowed to succeed. (Cheers.)"

"HISTORICAL RETROSPECT  
Now what is this Irish question of which I am to speak to-night? People's memories are very short, and I think it will be useful for me, if I can claim your patience for a few moments, to recapitulate in a few brief sentences the history of the Home Rule question. Ireland is asking for nothing new. Ireland had a Parliament of her own going back in

history almost as far as the Parliament of England. During the last eighteen years of that Parliament Ireland showed an increase in prosperity and in commerce and in industrial effort not paralleled in any other history in Europe at the time. (Cheers.) In 1800 that Parliament was destroyed. How? (A Voice: "Dirty Castlereagh.") The great Unionist historian of our times has declared that it was destroyed by means of the deepest turpitude, by force, by fraud, by corruption. We hear a good deal nowadays about the necessity of having yet another general election on the question of restoring the Irish Parliament. There have already in succession been three General Elections, and in each the Government was returned to power pledged to Home Rule for Ireland. (Cheers.) Yet our opponents demand a fourth. How was the union carried? Was the question of Union ever submitted to a General Election. ("No.") As you know, in the year 1793 the vote was given by the Protestant Irish Parliament to the Catholics of Ireland, but on the question of the Union those voters were never allowed to vote at all. No General Election was held, and the Union was carried over the heads of the electors of the country. From that day to this there has been a never ending protest by the great mass of the Irish people. During that dreadful period, now more than a century ago, there were three unsuccessful insurrections in Ireland, put down ruthlessly, put down in the blood of the people. There were famines every ten years. In one great famine, as you know, Ireland lost two millions of her people. ("Shame.") During that terrible period when England's population increased and multiplied, the population of Ireland fell by one-half. Her industries were destroyed. Ireland, which in the eighteen years before the Union was the most prosperous country in Europe. In the eighteen years after the Union sank to the lowest state of industrial stagnation and decay, and mark you, during this period the Irish Nationalists; who went to your Parliament at Westminster against their will and to protest against the destruction of the Parliamentary liberties of their country, in spite of all provocation rendered all through that century good for evil, and by their votes supported, aye, and often by their votes carried, every popular reform that the century has seen passed for the benefit of the people. All this time, during this terrible century of famine, discontent, industrial stagnation, insurrection, suffering, and bloodshed, Irish soldiers fought the battles of the Empire throughout the world. (Cheers.) Wellington's words are on record, where he said: "At least one-half of the soldiers under my command in the Peninsula were Irish Catholics," and where he further said: "It is mainly to Irish Catholic soldiers that we owe our proud pre-eminence in our military history. (Cheers.) Remember, too, what Mr. Seeley said: "The majority of the Irish members turned the balance in favor of the great Reform Bill of 1832"—(cheers)—and from that day to this there has not been a democratic measure which they have not powerfully assisted. "It is not," said this Unionist historian, "too much to say that their presence in the British Parliament has proved the most powerful of all agencies in accelerating the democratic transformation of English politics." (Hear, hear.)"

"STINGING CRITICISM OF ULSTER MEMBERS  
That is our record, notwithstanding the sufferings of our country during the century. That is the record of the representatives of the ascendancy party in Ireland, which to-day alone stands out to bar, if they can, the restoration of Irish rights? Those men voted against the emancipation of the Catholics, against the emancipation of the Jews, against the emancipation of the Nonconformists. They voted against the ballot, they voted against the franchise, and let me for fear people would say I am talking ancient history—let me give you their record during the last few years. (Hear, hear.) Let me go back to 1894. They voted against the death duties and the Harcourt budget, which placed the burden of taxation on those best able to bear it. They voted against the Laborers' Act in Ireland to provide for the erection of cottages for agricultural laborers. In 1906 they voted against the Plural Voting Bill to abolish the unjust power of the property vote. They voted against the 'Town Tenants' Bill to give compensation for improvements and disturbance of the tenants of houses and shops. They voted against the Small Landholders' Bill for Scotland to assist the poor crofters. They voted against the Land Valuation Bill for Scotland to restore to the people a share in the value of the land which they had created. They voted against the Evicted Tenants Bill to reinstate unjustly evicted tenants in Ireland. They voted against the Budget of 1908 which took off half the sugar tax from the shoulders of the workingmen of this country. Aye, and on old age pensions, what is their record? Two of them voted for them, fifteen did not vote at all, and one man—whom do you think it was, Sir Edward Carson—voted in the lobby against old age pensions. They voted against the Minimum Wage (Coal Mines) Act, which provided that rates of wages should be determined by joint wage boards. They voted against the Trade Union Act to repair the injury done by the Osborne judgment in 1909. They voted against the Plural Voting

Bill again, and let me not forget, they voted also against the concession of Home Rule to the Transvaal, which had saved South Africa for the Empire. (Great cheering.) Now, during all that long period, when our record was what I was giving you, and when the record of our opponents is the damning record that I have read out to you, Ireland never ceased to demand the restoration of Home Rule. (Cheers.) From the day that the Irish people got the franchise five-sixths of the Irish representatives have come, general election after general election, to Parliament to ask for Home Rule. At first repeal was demanded, and the restoration to Ireland of a sovereign independent Parliament.

"NEVER REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE  
That was given up and Home Rule took its place, and the demand since 1873 and down to the present is not for the repeal of the Union, but for the readjustment of a sovereign parliament, but for the concession to Ireland of a subordinate parliament subject to the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament in this country. (Cheers.) In 1886 Mr. Gladstone proposed that settlement. (Renewed cheers.) The country was not prepared for it, and it was defeated. In 1893 he again proposed that settlement. It was passed in the House of Commons and was rejected by the House of Lords. It was never rejected by the people. (Cheers.) Those who say so tell an untruth. When the bill of 1893 was rejected by the House of Lords Mr. Gladstone wanted to dissolve parliament. His Cabinet, most unwisely as I thought then, and I think still, declined. He went out of office into retirement. The Government carried on, and hung on for two years. The whole attention of the country during those years was directed to what was called the Newcast programme. When the general election of 1895 came, it was decided not upon Home Rule, but upon a multitude of other issues. At the same time I must admit that in 1893 there was a British majority in the House of Commons against Home Rule. That is so no longer. (Cheers.) To-day there is a larger, and an overwhelming, British majority, apart from Irish votes, altogether in favor of the Home Rule Bill in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) There have been three general elections returning Home Rule Governments to power in succession. The Home Rule Bill has passed the House of Commons twice by majorities of over a hundred. (Cheers.) It has passed by large British majorities, far larger than those which carried most of your great reforms during the last century. Let it pass once more and it becomes the law of the land. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) The power of the House of Lords to wreck it is gone. (Loud cheers.) All the old arguments have disappeared, and to-day there is absolutely no obstacle in our path save one, and this is of so ridiculous and audacious a character as to find no parallel in the history of constitutional government in any land upon earth. One small handful of men in one small corner of one province in Ireland declare that they won't allow this bill to pass—(laughter)—this bill, mark you, which has a majority of Ireland at its back, and the whole Empire practically unanimous in its favor. (Cheers.) They won't allow it to pass, and if it is passed in spite of them they will declare war—(laughter)—upon their fellow-countrymen in Ireland, upon the Empire, and the throne itself. (Shame.) Let me say to you English people this one serious word: if such an obstacle as that were allowed to prevail, if such a threat as that were allowed to become effectual, and the whole of all constitutional government—(cheers)—an end to all liberty, an end to all law and order, aye, an end to all civilized society. Now, allow me briefly to examine the claims of Ulster. What is Ulster? It is a province that consists of 9 counties which returns to parliament 17 Home Rulers and 16 anti-Home Rulers. (Cheers.) It is a province where the population is very nearly evenly divided between Catholics and Protestants, and allowing for the margin, which I believe to be a large one, of Protestant Home Rulers, Ulster to-day consists of a population the majority of which is in favor of Home Rule. (Cheers.)"

"THE SUGGESTED EXCLUSION OF ULSTER  
To exclude Ulster bodily, therefore is so patently absurd—(cheers)—that our opponents have been forced to fall back upon what are called the Counties, that is, the Counties of Down, Armagh, Antrim and Derry, and they say, 'Here you find a homogeneous population, homogeneous in race, in religion, in politics, in unity, and in opposition to Home Rule.' Now allow me to examine that for a moment. Homogeneous in politics? Why, every one of these four counties returns one Home Rule member to Parliament. (Cheers.) Homogeneous in religion? Allow me to examine that. I have here the figures from the latest census, and they show that in the County of Down there is a percentage of 31.6 of Catholics. In Antrim there is a percentage of 20.3 Catholics. In Armagh there is a proportion of 45.3 per cent. of Catholics, in Derry County there is a proportion of 41.5. In Derry City there is a proportion of 56.2 Catholics, and in Belfast itself there is a proportion of 24.1 per cent. of Catholics. (Hear, hear.) Now to consider the politics of those counties. You start from

the assumption which of course is true, that all those Catholics are Home Rulers. (Hear, hear.) The Protestants of the four counties number 729,624. If you take 10 per cent. of the Protestants as Home Rulers—and everyone who knows the North of Ireland knows that is a ridiculous under estimate of their number—and if you add this 10 per cent. that is, 72,962 Protestant Home Rulers to the 316,406 Catholic Home Rulers you then have a grand total of 389,368 supporters of Home Rule in these four homogeneous counties. (Cheers.) That amounts to 37 per cent. of the whole population of these counties, and therefore, to arrive at homogeneity in them our opponents are obliged to wipe out of existence for the sake of their argument 37.2 of the population.

"PROSPERITY IN MORE THAN ONE PROVINCE  
But these people say when driven by such facts as I have mentioned, 'Oh! these four counties are the only prosperous part of Ireland and the Nationalists only want to include these counties in the Irish Parliament in order to ruin them by taxation.' Now there is no power under the Home Rule Bill to differentiate in the matter of taxation between one class and another, but that is too small a matter to engage the mighty minds of our opponents. Let that pass, and let me ask, is this the only prosperous part of Ireland? Now, don't complain if I weary you a little by giving you some figures. ('Go on!') Rhetoric is all very well, but in a matter of this kind facts and figures are better. On December 9, 1912, the Treasury issued a return, from which I am taking these figures. The gross annual value of property under Schedule A, Schedule D, and Schedule E, in Dublin was £10,717,391. In Belfast it was £6,339,214, and the estimated income tax payable for 1911-12 in Dublin was £361,000, and in Belfast £206,000. (Laughter.) The gross assessment per head of the population in Dublin was £36 7s. 9d., and in Belfast £16 7s. 7d. (Laughter.) Let me go now from individual cities to provinces. The rateable value per head of the population in Leinster was £4 8s. 9d., in Ulster £2 9s. 8d., in Munster £2 4s. 8d., and in Connaught £2 5s. 4d. Let it should be thought unfair to take provinces, let me take counties. Let me take these four counties that are supposed to represent practically the whole of Ireland. I have a list here of all the counties of Ireland according to their rateable value. I find that County Down instead of being at the top is the fifteenth county, that County Antrim is the twentieth, County Derry twenty-sixth, and Armagh twenty-first. In the face of these hard official figures what is the use of people coming and talking about these counties being the only prosperous part of Ireland? (Hear, hear.) Let me take another test. Since 1851, 1,190,191 people have emigrated from Ulster. 'Ah, yes,' I hear someone say, 'but that is from the Catholic Nationalist thrifflers part of Ulster.' Well, I have here the figures for the four counties, and in that period there emigrated from those four counties 652,957 people, and the last emigration returns issued only the other day continue the story. In the last emigration returns Ulster heads the list for the whole of Ireland. From the County of Antrim alone last year 3,628 people emigrated, within 600 of the total of the emigration for the whole Province of Leinster. But I go further still. It is said that the Customs duties collected in Belfast amount to £2,206,000 out of a total for the whole of Ireland of only £3,271,000. Therefore you are told that Belfast pays almost the whole taxation of Ireland. Was such absurdity ever heard before? The Customs duties are levied in Belfast, but they are paid by the consumers all through Ireland. Belfast is simply the port of distribution, and I would venture respectfully to say to Belfast that it would be well for her to consider whether if she were excluded tomorrow from the Home Rule Bill and cut off from Ireland, and other ports—Dublin, Waterford, Cork and so forth—might not easily take her place as centres of distribution. (Cheers.)"

"INTERDEPENDENCY OF IRISH PROVINCES  
The plain truth of the matter is that Belfast and the four counties are more dependent for their prosperity upon the rest of Ireland than the rest of Ireland is dependent for its prosperity upon them. (Cheers.) There is not a merchant in Belfast who is not dependent more or less upon the South and West of Ireland. All the great banking institutions in Ulster have branches through the South and West. One of their great banks, the Ulster bank, has twenty-eight branches outside Belfast in purely Catholic quarters through the South and West of Ireland. The same is true of the Northern Bank and the Belfast Banking Company, and other institutions of the kind. As one who, whether he is believed or not, will continue to assert that he is as anxious for the maintenance of the prosperity of Ulster and Belfast as of any part of Ireland, I say that the exclusion of Ulster or any part of Ireland would mean the ruin of its prosperity. (Hear, hear.) But to us exclusion would mean something more. It would mean the nullification of our hopes and aspirations for the future Irish nation. It would mean the erection of sharp, permanent, eternal dividing lines between Catholic and Protestants, whereas our ideal has been an Irish nation in the future made up of a blend of all races, of all classes

and of all creeds. (Prolonged cheers.) Let me read for you some words spoken the other day by a Protestant Bishop in the West of Ireland. The Bishop of Tuam issued an address to his flock, and in it said: 'My coming to the West of Ireland has made me more proud of the fact that I am an Irishman than ever I was for here I have been brought into personal contact with one of the most prominent features, that characteristic mark of the true Ireland. Where in the whole world will you find such kindheartedness and such humanity? The generous welcome extended to me by the people of Connaught, Irish Churchmen and Catholics alike, has made a deep impression upon me. (Cheers.) I think I see here in the West of Ireland the dawn of my most cherished hopes. Loving my Church as I do, and loving hardly less my country, I have often longed to see our Church taking a more prominent part in the moulding of our national life and national character. (Cheers.) It is sad indeed to think how little sympathy there has been in the past between our Church and the aspirations of the nation. And remember,' he said, 'in a very real sense Ireland is a nation—(cheers)—and there is nothing in the least inconsistent in being a Nationalist and patriot in the truest sense of the word and being at the same time the staunchest loyalist.' (Cheers.) Those are noble words. Are we to be asked to annihilate and destroy that noble ideal put forward by that great Protestant Irishman by the erection of an artificial, an impassable gulf between the Protestants and the Catholics of Ireland. (Cries of "No.")"

"THE ASCENDANCY GIBE  
The real position of our opponents is in my opinion plain and unmistakable. Just as in Canada when Lord Durham proposed to end Canadian disaffection and unrest by giving Home Rule there was an ascendancy section, as Lord Durham points out in his famous report, holding in their hands all the offices of power and emolument and bitterly opposed to the concession of Home Rule, so our opponents to-day in Ireland, the representatives of the old ascendancy, the cursed ascendancy whose spirit has been the cause of all the miseries and misfortunes of our country, are standing out now to day saying: 'You shall not do justice to Ireland.' I was reading the other day in the most powerful Unionist journal published in Ulster, the 'Belfast News Letter,' an article in which these dreadful words occurred. They were written in August: 'Over a quarter of a century we have been sleeping while the enemy sowed the tares which have now grown up, a bitter crop. Even our friends told us the danger was over and that there was no need for Orangemen; that we should live in peace and amity with our Catholic and free country-men, and all that sickening rot, Live in peace and amity with all men certainly, but clip the wings of Rome. The Papists make good hewers of wood and drawers of water.' (Shame.) There is the spirit which animates our opponents to-day. (Cheers.) Five-sixths of the Irish people are to remain hewers of wood and drawers of water, and the little ascendancy faction is to be allowed to maintain its grip on every office of power and emolument and honor in the country. This ascendancy party to-day holds as it has held all through the century, practically every office of power and honor and emolument in the country where five-sixths of the people are to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. I have some figures here. I am loth to quote, but out of 6,000 Justices of the Peace the ascendancy faction holds 3,653. Out of 30 Lords Lieutenant the ascendancy faction holds 27, and they have 30 High Sheriffs, practically the whole body. They have 601 Deputy Lieutenants out of 650. They have 62 members of the Privy Council out of 72. They have 57 Stipendiary Magistrates out of 76. They have 9 Judges of the High Court out of 18. They have 33 Court Inspectors of Police out of 37, and so on. I might continue the list all through the whole hierarchy, of government in Ireland. It is the same. The ascendancy party holds to-day, and has held a practical monopoly of every office of power, emolument, honor and dignity in Ireland, and five-sixths of the people, the Papists, the mere low Irish in Ireland who happen to be the remnants of the ancient Irish—(cheers)—are to remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. (A voice: "Shame.") Believe me it is not fear of religious persecution that animates our opponents. Men like the Protestant Bishop of Tuam, where not 3 per cent. of the population is Protestant—he and men like him know well that the spirit of intolerance and persecution does not exist among the Catholics of Ireland to-day. (Cheers.) It is not fear of religious persecution, it is not fear of unjust taxation in Ulster. If there were any such fear I fancy that Lord Pirrie, who is the biggest business man of Belfast, and who pays, I believe, something like £20,000 a week in wages, would not be, as he is, enthusiastically in favor of the Home Rule Bill. (Cheers.)"

"NO SURRENDER  
What animates our opponents is fear of the loss of their old ascendancy, and to-day in defence of that unholy monopoly these men threaten civil war on the Empire and the throne. Their threats are idle. (Cheers.) In Ireland we will never submit to them. (Loud cheers.) For Great Britain to submit would be