

Now, it is probable that the existence of these compulsory powers will, as in the case of the recent legislation as to laborers' allotments in England, render their use needless in almost all cases, and that the operation will proceed simply by the fact of the existence, without the use, of the power.

It is clear to my mind to a demonstration that these general lines must be followed, and that their pursuit is in the interest of landlords and tenants alike; and that thus only can we hope to make Ireland a permanently contented and prosperous country. Now, how is this to be treated in connection with Home Rule? There may be other possible alternatives. I do not dogmatise; but three occur to me; one immediate action by the Imperial Parliament; another, the immediate transfer of power on proper conditions to a local legislature; the third, a reservation of the question for a limited time, on the expiration of which, if still unsettled by the Imperial Legislature, it should go to the Local Legislature. I have a decided preference with reference to these alternatives; but it would be premature to discuss that now, or to disclose opinions which may be modified by further reflection and review of the situation. On these, as on other questions, a reasonable, practical man must see what is proposed, and endeavor to reach the best attainable adjustment. The difficulties are great; but they are not insuperable. The complexity is so serious as may, indeed, prevent the framing of a fully detailed plan now. Yet I believe it to be not at all impossible to lay down now principles which shall safeguard the interests of the landlords as well as the interests of the tenants.

There are many other details in connection with this measure—including some of the most important character. To their solution able men have been and are now bending their minds and energies. I believe they will be solved, and that we will see soon a good Home Rule Bill introduced

into the Imperial Parliament. (Loud cheers.) God speed the bill! (Renewed cheers.) And take care that you help in your measure, for to us, under God's providence, is allotted a share in moulding this affair. Take care that you help in your measure to the speeding of that day, and to the success of the bill when it does come forward. (Applause.)

Mr. Chairman, I shall not longer detain you. There are many speakers whom it is important to the cause that you should hear, and I shall now close. I will add this only, that it would be ungrateful in the extreme for me to sit down without saying that, both in Ireland and in England alike, your fellow-countryman has been received and treated with a kindness and a consideration beyond all expectation, and which have touched his heart more deeply than could anything, save the affection and kindness of his friends at home. (Loud and long continued cheering, during which the speaker resumed his seat.)

ARCHBISHOP WALSH.

After Mr. Blake's speech had been delivered and so soon as the cheering which followed it had subsided, the tall, commanding figure of Archbishop Walsh, who had been sitting at the left of the chairman, was presented to the audience. His address was short but every word told, and the sentences were punctuated with prolonged applause. He began by saying that it was not his custom to stand upon public platforms to discuss purely secular matters. This was not merely a matter of politics, it was the question of a nation struggling to regain rights wrung from it by fraud, violence and corruption. In this gathering of free Canadians there was sympathy for those engaged in the struggle. It was a wonder indeed that any honest Canadian could be found adverse to the principle of Home Rule. In such a country as ours with its evidence of prosperity,

