

**FORTY-THREE MAJORITY.**

**THE BILL PASSED THE SECOND READING.**

**Close of the Debate on Home Rule—Sir Henry James, Balfour, and Gladstone, Terminate the Discussion.**

LONDON, April 21.—The members of the House of Commons flocked to the House early to-day to secure seats for the final encounter over the second reading of the Home Rule Bill. Dr. C. K. Tanner, Nationalist member for Middle Cork, was the first to arrive. Several other Nationalists and several representatives of the Ulster Unionists followed Dr. Tanner closely, and many other members were in their seats much more promptly than usual. Dr. Tanner had a special reason for being early besides his interest in the Home Rule Bill. He was entrusted with the pleasing duty of presenting to Prime Minister Gladstone, as soon as Mr. Gladstone should arrive, a beautiful bouquet of flowers sent from Ireland and accompanied by the inscription:

"All blessings and power to the friend of poor and distressed Ireland. May God prosper you."

Upon the opening of business in the House, William O'Brien asked if Mr. Gladstone had received a resolution adopted and signed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Cork, approving the establishment of an Irish Parliament in Dublin. Mr. Gladstone replied: "Yes; I had much pleasure in receiving the resolution, all the more as I am informed that it expresses the uniform views of all corporate bodies in Ireland." Mr. T. W. Russell, Unionist, South Tyrone, asked if Mr. Gladstone knew that half the members of the Municipal Council of Cork were absent when the resolution was adopted.

Mr. O'Brien sprang to his feet and with considerable vehemence said: "That is not a fact."

Mr. Gladstone calmly replied to Mr. Russell's question, saying: "The resolution at least expresses the feeling of a great majority of the Irish Municipal Councils." Mr. Gladstone added that the Home Rule Bill was certain to pass its second reading to-night and that it would go to the committee May 4. This statement was received with cheers.

**SIR HENRY JAMES SPEAKS.**

The Right Hon. Sir Henry James, Liberal-Unionist member for Bury, addressed the House in opposition to the Home Rule Bill. He said that the premier had spoken of the wrongs of Ireland. What wrongs, asked Sir Henry, could not be remedied by the legislation of a democratic parliament. Surely the Imperial formed a democracy best able to settle Irish grievances.—Apart from the control of the Imperial Parliament to whom would the government of Ireland go? It would be in the hands of those now forming a majority of the Irish representatives, men drawn from the Land League and proved to be conspirators against law. These men would take place and power with the determination to sweep out of Ireland the landlords whom they regarded as an English garrison. "Talk of the bill as a final settlement," exclaimed Sir Henry. "It is simply a measure to enable a section of Irish agitators to deal as they may choose with the country. It is practically a repeal of the union and an epitaph on the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Instead of being a message of peace between the two countries it is a message of war. There might for some time be armed peace, but if it should require the interference of the military in order to enforce it, where could real peace be? The bill surpasses the ingenuity of man in devising proposals to bring the law into contempt. There is not a man in Ireland who could not set its provisions at defiance. Neither could the judges enforce it. (Hear, hear.) Had the bill been explained to English constituencies the present government could never have obtained even a limited English minority in support of it, nor would the Prime Minister, who is trying to pass the measure solely through Irish votes, ever again have sat on a government bench." Sir Henry James was heartily applauded at the close by the Conservative and Liberal-Unionist members.

**MR. BALFOUR AGAIN SPEAKS.**

Early in the evening the debate was monopolised by minor members. Their

speeches were featureless, and by 9 o'clock the benches were more than half empty. At 10 o'clock Mr. Gladstone entered hurriedly and amidst cheers took his seat on the Treasury bench. Members began to return rapidly. At 10.30 Mr. Balfour was received with cheers. All the members had meantime taken their places and the House waited expectantly for the heavy guns of the final debate on the second reading.

Mr. Balfour rose shortly before 11 o'clock. A longer period had never been occupied with the second reading of a bill, he said, than had been allowed for the present debate. The subject was of such transcendent importance, however, that nobody could say that the discussion had been too much prolonged. The Libera's might flatter themselves that they were only laying the first stepping stones to a system of federation. Some seemed even to court such an imputation. No man, however, had the audacity to come forward in the House with the details of such a plan. No man dare contend that within the narrow limits of the two islands four assemblies with four executives could be operative in harmony with one Imperial Parliament. He himself could not believe this childish imitation of the United States constitution would ever commend itself to the judgment of the British people. (Cheers.) He, therefore, would put the federation aside as not immediate to the discussion. The Home Rule Bill had been brought forward to meet the Liberal party's necessities, which were connected with Irish agitation and Irish crime. (Hear, hear.) Never had such an important constitutional change been proposed with such flimsy reasons. Substantial arguments for the necessity of the measure could be enumerated on the fingers of one hand. Two of these arguments were that the union had failed and that coercion had failed. Mr. Balfour then argue at some length to prove that coercion in Ireland had been productive of beneficent results and that under the last Salisbury cabinet the union was becoming tranquil, Agrarian crime in Ireland was a national disease of ancient growth. It was not a production of the union of Ireland and England,

**THE IRISH DON'S LIKE IT.**

Such a contention ignored history. Agrarian crime began before the union and after the union it had to be treated with the methods long used against it. Under the union the treatment had been most successful and agrarian crime had decreased. Mr. Balfour was interrupted by confusion among the Irish members and upon resuming his speech repeated with emphasis that agrarian crime in Ireland was at its worst before the union. This statement evoked loud cries of "no," "false" and "shame" from the Irish men. Proceeding, Mr. Balfour said it was madness to look forward with the expectation of seeing agrarian crime stamped out in the immediate future. Under wise legislation in recent years this crime had decreased in virulence. (Hear, hear.) There was still much to be done for the Irish tenant farmers, but were the evils to be remedied by the union?

Since Ireland had been united with England the condition of both Irish farmer and Irish laborer had improved immensely. It was absurd to hold England responsible for Ireland's woes, although it might be admitted that England some times had played a sorry part towards her sister country. Who could but feel disgusted with the creeping hypocrisy of the men who, although aware of the history of Ireland, threw upon England the responsibility for Irish wrongs? Mr. Balfour contended that Ireland as a nation had never a parliament. Those classes who had had a parliament in Ireland did not now desire a parliament. (Cheers.) If the Government in their madness gave Ireland a parliament they would be not restoring an ancient privilege, but would be granting the country something she never before possessed. In justifying his recent speeches before the Ulster Loyalists, Mr. Balfour remarked that upon the principle that a reformed rake made the best husband, an ex-Fenian might become a good administrator. In 1886 the present Prime Minister had said it was a matter of honor to protect their landlords from confiscation of their estates, but in this bill this matter of honor had been forgotten. Ambitions would centre in the new Dublin Parliament. Irishmen would regard the Imperial Parliament as a foreign and defeated body. The Irish

people would drink from the bitter and polluted stream of Irish history instead of the pure stream of English history. (Laughter.) Protestants of Ireland, ninety years ago, had opposed the union, but now were defending it. Why not hope then that a generation hence the Catholics, too, would be reconciled to it. "If you commit this great political crime," said Mr. Balfour, in closing his speech, "you make yourselves responsible for an irreparable national disaster and all hopes of a peaceful and united Ireland will vanish forever." Prolonged cheers and counter cheers followed this peroration.

**MR. GLADSTONE REPLIES.**

As Mr. Gladstone rose to address the House the cheering was renewed. Like Mr. Balfour, he was in splendid form. His voice was clearer and fuller than before during the session, and his movements gave evidence of unusual energy and earnestness. The principal weapons of the Opposition, he said, were bold assertion, persistent exaggeration, constant misconstruction and copious arbitrary and baseless prophecies. True, there were conflicting financial arrangements to be dealt with, but among the difficulties nothing existed which ought to abash or terrify men desirous to accomplish a great object. For the first time in ninety years the bill would secure the supremacy of Parliament as founded upon right as well as backed by power. The Irish leaders before the whole House had accepted the bill in good faith. The Opposition had evaded steadfastly the real question of the second reading—how must Ireland be governed if this bill be rejected? Lord Salisbury had asked for twenty years of coercion, but as the policy of converting Ireland to Protestantism inaugurated under Queen Elizabeth had failed down to the present time, what ground was there for hope that in but twenty years more it would succeed? The present bill sought to close a controversy that had lasted for centuries. Under its provisions Ireland would start on a new basis with all the recollections of the past effaced. The persistent distrust of the Irish people despite all they could do came simply to this, that they were to be pressed below the level of civilized mankind. When the boon of self-government was given to the British colonies was Ireland alone to be excepted from its blessings? To deny Ireland home rule was to say that she lacked the ordinary faculties of humanity. Mr. Gladstone's closing words were: "You cannot be surprised that we have undertaken the solution of this great question, and as, on the other hand, it is not the least of the arduous efforts of the Liberal party, so on the other hand it will have its place in history—aye, and not remote but early history—as not the least durable, fruitful and blessed among its accomplished acts."

**THE HOUSE DIVIDES.**

Before the cheering ceased George Bartley, Conservative for North Salington, rose to continue the debate. Mr. Murley, chief secretary for Ireland, moved the closure and it was adopted without division. William Saunders, Radical for Watworth division of Newington, who threatened to bolt to the Opposition, changed his mind at the last moment and went into the lobby with the Ministerialists. As Mr. Gladstone returned from the lobby Ministerialists and Nationalists arose and cheered and



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waved their hats. John Richmond shouted "Three cheers for Parnell," but the only response was laughter. The announcement that the bill had passed the second reading by a vote of 347 to 304 was the signal for more cheers and hat waving. There was another demonstration when Mr. Gladstone left the House. Crowds had gathered outside the building, and as the Prime Minister rode away he was followed by three cheers.

**THE C. M. B. A.**

**Archbishop Fabre Decides in Favor of the Grand Council of Canada.**

The differences between the two divisions of the C. M. B. A. in Quebec have been put on a direct way to a quick settlement by a letter Archbishop Fabre issued last week. Last year, in consequence of certain Ontario legislation designed to protect the members of benefit and friendly societies, it was decided by the Supreme council of the association that the branches in Canada should have a separate beneficiary fund, entirely under control of the representatives of the Grand council.

In pursuance of this understanding all the Ontario branches and a majority of these in Quebec made the necessary changes and applied for certificates from the Grand council of Canada. Some, however, saw things differently, and after considerable wire pulling authority was obtained from the officers of the Supreme council in the United States to establish here a grand council for Quebec, independent of the Grand Council of Canada, and in financial affiliation with the Supreme Council of the United States. Acting thereon, the Grand Council of Quebec was constituted at a meeting in Montreal, and Mr. P. J. O'Reilly, was elected Grand president. The legality of the proceeding was questioned, and Archbishop Fabre withheld his approval. After some private correspondence and negotiation it was agreed that the allegiance of the order in the archdiocese of Montreal should be settled by a majority vote to be taken and the result signified to Mgr. Fabre. The result is tersely stated in the following letter:—

ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE,  
MONTREAL, April 18, 1893.

To the Members of the C.M.B.A. in the Province of Quebec:

On the 8th February last, the Supreme trustees of the C.M.B.A. held a meeting in Montreal, and had an interview with me for the purpose of settling the difficulties which had arisen in your association, and to decide if a grand council should be granted to the province of Quebec, or if the agreement accepted by the Supreme Council and the Grand Council of Canada was to be adhered to. It was decided that the Supreme Council would send their Supreme deputy into the province to ascertain what was the desire of the majority; that he would report to supreme recorder, C. J. Hickey, who would, himself, send the report to me under seal of the Supreme council. I received those documents last Friday. They show that the majority of members in the province and the archdiocese of Montreal, have exchanged their Supreme Council certificates for those of the Grand Council of Canada, and that they desire to remain fully affiliated with said Grand Council of Canada.

I therefore adhere to the letter I addressed to the members on November 29 last. I fully recognize the Grand Council of Canada.

Should some members desire to remain under the immediate jurisdiction of the Supreme council, if they consider it to be in their interest to do so, I do not wish to interfere; but among all the members of the C. M. B. A., and especially my diocesans, I strongly urge that union which alone can secure the prosperity of your association.

†EDOUARD CHS.,  
Archbishop of Montreal.

The effect of the Archbishop's letter is expected to be an early reunion of the Quebec Grand council branches with the Grand Council of Canada, which has thus received His Grace's very marked approval.

If you are tired and never hungry, Hood's Sarsaparilla will make you feel strong and well, and give you a hearty appetite.

OTHERS HAVE NOTICED IT.—"There is one thing I never could understand," said Mrs. X., between the numbers of a concert programme.

"What is that?" asked her husband, "That you have always to encore a singer to get a song you can enjoy."