



A TELLING SPEECH.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY ON FORSTER.

THE EX-MINISTER PROVED TO BE IN SYMPATHY WITH ITALIAN ASSASSINS.

The following is the Times' report of the speech delivered in the House of Commons by Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P. for County Longford:—

Mr. McCarthy confessed that the fate of the amendment under discussion gave him very little concern. It was not directed against himself or against his friends with whom he stood, but against Her Majesty's Government, and he could not take much interest in its purpose or its wording. He did not intend to discuss it, and he cared not whether it was carried or rejected. He wished to apply himself mainly to two of the speeches which had been delivered in the course of the debate—namely, that of the right hon. member for Bradford and that of the present Chief Secretary for Ireland. The speech of the right hon. gentleman, the member for Bradford, was a great effort. He always thought that the right hon. gentleman possessed a good deal of dramatic talent, but it had not been fully developed until the present moment. (Hear, hear.) He regretted that the right hon. gentleman was not then present. The motive of the right hon. gentleman in making his speech was not only to attack and discredit the Irish members, but also to discredit and damage the Government of which he had been a member. There was one quality of the speech to be remarked, and that was its envenomed malignity. He had never heard a speech in that House so entirely inspired with the purpose of deliberate defamation. (Hear, hear.)

At this point Mr. Forster entered the House, and was met with ironical cheers from the Irish members. Mr. McCarthy, continuing, said he had just observed that the speech of the right hon. gentleman was one of systematic defamation. The right hon. gentleman said that he gave the Irish members the alternative—namely, either that they connived at outrage, or that when warned by facts and statements they determined to remain in ignorance in order to gain the advantage of outrage. But that was no alternative at all. In either case they connived at outrage. The right hon. gentleman, therefore, having made up his mind to charge them with having connived at murder, should have stood boldly up and said so. (Cheers.) He should have thought that the right hon. gentleman was the last man, owing to certain memories, who would have been inclined to fling such an accusation recklessly. He must have remembered the time, when he was making the charge yesterday, when the leading, and by far the most influential, newspaper in this country had charged him with sympathy with secret assassination. He (Mr. McCarthy) did not make such a charge against the right hon. gentleman, but the leading newspapers at that time did so again and again. On the 14th of March, 1864, a member of that House (Mr. Pope Hennessy) brought forward statements with regard to his right hon. friend the member for Halifax, and charged that right hon. gentleman with sympathy with assassination because he had harbored Mazzini and certain of his friends. The effect was that the hon. gentleman resigned. The right hon. gentleman the member for Bradford then stood up for his friend. He did not blame him for that. But in the course of the debate extracts from the writings of Mazzini inciting to murder were read. The right hon. gentleman then said that "A charge had been brought against an absent man—Signor Mazzini—but whatever his falling, he was a man of high character." (Cheers.) The right hon. gentleman the Prime Minister was not of the same opinion, because he wrote at the same time that "The satellites of Mazzini make common cause with assassination." (Hear.) In the course of a subsequent debate the right hon. gentleman the member for Bradford said, "I should not be ashamed to be the friend of Mazzini." (Cheers.) That incident was not altogether without interest or a moral at that time. (Hear, hear.) He must quote another extract referring to that matter. The Times of the 15th of March, 1864, had a leading article on this subject, which was not without application to the present circumstances. "Who, then, is Mazzini—Mazzini, to whose innocents the right hon. gentleman the member for Halifax and Mr. W. B. Forster pledge themselves? Let any one read the passages quoted by Mr. Hennessy, and say whether the friends of Mazzini had any right to indulge in high-flown indignation when it was alleged that he might possibly be engaged in a conspiracy against a potentate's life." He asked whether the right hon. member for Bradford was justified in condemning the Irish members, because the very same newspaper which accused him of sympathy with assassination now brought a similar charge against them. (Hear, hear.) The right hon. gentleman had had something to say about the humble individual who was addressing the House with regard to his connection with the United Ireland, which was published in Dublin. It appeared that about a year and a half ago the right hon. gentleman saw in that newspaper, not leading articles, but some small paragraphs, and had applied to him when he was absent from the House to say whether he approved them or not. The right hon. gentleman must have known, when he made that appeal, that he could not possibly have seen the paragraphs

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The excitement in the Lady Florence Dixie affair has cooled down, and the explosion at the Government Offices has regained its hold on the public feeling, not so much for the damage that has been done as for the possibilities it suggests. The Government Department in Whitehall and Downing street, as well as around King street and Charles street, are now without military guard. You see them marching on their prescribed rounds of only a few yards for each sentinel at every hour, day and night, and when the explosives could be deposited and the train laid and the fuse fired without discovery in such surroundings, people begin to estimate what might be done in quarters so unprotected and with results far more deplorable. No arrests have yet been made in connection with the affair, though, as usual, the police with an air of reticent wisdom, declare they have clues to the perpetrators. This evening's news is that the police do not expect to make any arrests in the case. Another cause of excitement in the lobby was the report in the afternoon papers of a declaration on Irish affairs by Mr. Parnell in an interview to-day with a Paris journalist—the editor of La France. There is a jubilation in the Irish Parliamentary ranks at the outspoken arraignment of England on occasion of the explosion at the Government offices. Mr. Parnell states that he is unable to say whether dynamite or gas caused the explosion at the Government buildings in London. He knows nothing of the "Invincibles," and is unaware whether or not O'Donovan Rossa participated in any manner in the Phoenix Park murders. Referring to his Land bill, he said he would be satisfied with the original Land Act as it first passed the Commons without the amendments added by the House of Lords, but that the Irish people would never admit that the present Land Act was either satisfactory or final. "Whatever fresh departure is made necessary by the events consequent upon the explosion in London and other alleged Irish outrages, England will be utterly unable to intensify, even in the remotest degree, the rigor of the law and the cruelty of the officials against Ireland and the Irish. Ireland is now virtually in a state of siege. Armed soldiers are eating in abundance while the people are starving. Misery of the worst kind is increasing and spreading. Very little seed has been sown, and a grievous famine is impending. All this means material ruin. The Fenians have no chance to effect an alteration in the present state of things. If they assembled they would be shot down by the soldiers without trace or mercy."

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The National League Proclamation.

BUFFALO, March 24.—The undersigned, representing the National League of Ireland and Irish National Land League of the United States and Canada, and the Committee of Seven appointed by the Irish Convention held at Chicago, hereby call an Irish American national convention to be held in the Horticultural Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock a.m. on April 26, 1883, for the following and other purposes:—1st. To express our sympathy with the suffering people of our race who, reduced to poverty by indigent laws and bad harvests, are offered by the Government which claims their allegiance only the alternative of the degradation of the workhouses which Thos. Carlyle called "human swineeries," or enforced exile to foreign lands. 2nd. To voice the horror which the freedom of every race feel on beholding a peaceable, industrious and virtuous nation jeoparded by force of all vestiges of constitutional liberty, the lives of her citizens ruthlessly sacrificed on the altar and perjured testimony of self-confessed villains; her jury box packed by political and religious bigotry and the armies of her judicial bench thickly concealing Castle conspiracy and partisanship; the functions of government within her confines administered by her enemies, and all her national and political rights obliterated by a ferocious Coercion Act, whose tyrannous provisions shock civilization, engender and reward crime, and justify every legitimate effort of an exasperated people in resisting its enforcement. 3rd. In the city where Irishmen helped to lay the foundations of American liberty, in perpetuation of which the blood of their sons have been freely poured, to declare on behalf of the exiled millions of our race, that we will never cease our efforts to recover for our motherland the God-given and inalienable right of national independence, and that these efforts may be guided under the blessings of Heaven by the best counsels of all our people, and be made powerful by their combined strength to blend into one organization all the Irish societies of the United States and Canada, the new organization to be affiliated with the Irish National League of Ireland, of which Ohas. Stewart Farnell is the President. The basis of representation shall be a membership of 50, and not more than a 100 persons, and two delegates for each society whose membership exceeds one hundred. All Irish American temperance, mutual benefit, charitable, literary, military, musical, and patriotic organizations are eligible to representation.

Signed, PATRICK ROAN, of National Land League of Ireland. J. S. MCGHEE, Pres. Irish American Land League. MICHAEL BOGARD, Chairman Committee of Seven.

TROUBLES IN ENGLAND.

LETTERS THREATENING TO BLOW UP THE CANTERBURY DEANERY.

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