

THE "CANADIAN PARNELL."

A Noble and Patriotic Letter—Honor to Edward Blake—The Franchise of the Irishmen of the Eastern Townships—Mr. Blake's Reply.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE, M.P.:

Sir.—Forty to sixty years ago, a number of Irishmen from various counties in Ireland immigrated to Canada, when the "Eastern Townships" were almost a trackless wilderness, settled in the counties of Richmond and Drummond, P.Q., but chiefly in the first named county, where they now constitute a considerable colony. Many of the old settlers are now grandfathers 80, 85 and 90 years old with their sons and grandsons living around them. These venerable pioneers are able to trace the genealogy of the "Blake" family in Ireland for three generations back; some of them having known your grand parents. They often take pleasure in recounting the virtues and qualities of your ancestors, invariably concluding with the significant remark: "Edward Blake couldn't help being both great and good, for blood will always tell, as he came honestly by these good qualities from both his grand parents."

This colony of Irish patriots, in whom the flame of Irish patriotism and love of liberty still ardently burns, have long felt the need of a leader who would unite their political efforts in their adopted country, and at the same time encourage their Irish national aspirations. In 1882 we began to hope that the long-looked-for leader had appeared in the person of John Costigan, M.P.; but how vainly we had hoped, our present disappointment but too keenly attests. However, actuated by that hope, a few of us made known to him our sympathy and gratitude. But, since then, our budding hope has passed into the "ere and yellow leaf," and we are but too well convinced that the evidence of our confidence and approval has been perverted to personal and selfish aims, as well as to the more sordid political purposes of the federal prime minister and his class of secret oath-bound associates. Therefore, our esteem and confidence are hereby withdrawn from a self-defiled and discredited idol, and we have chosen and installed another, who stands unrivalled in this Dominion as the one man, who by deeds of self-sacrifice, genuine patriotism, untarnished honor, and matchless ability has proved his well-earned claim to the title of the "Canadian Parnell," and that man is the Hon. Edward Blake.

We accordingly extend to you our cordial approval and sincere thanks for your deep sympathy with Ireland and generous appreciation of Irishmen on the following memorable occasions:— 1st. In support of the Costigan Irish Home Rule resolutions in the Ottawa House of Commons in 1882. 2nd. In opposition to Orange demands, subsequently, in the Dominion Parliament. 3rd. By your plea in favor of Irish home rule, with Gladstone and Lord Rosebery, in Scotland, last summer. 4th. And finally, in the Ottawa Parliament, on May 6th, 1886, in support of Ireland's present great struggle for legislative independence; while at the same time we reprobate and condemn the conduct of the Hon. John Costigan in refusing to introduce resolutions, during the recent session, in approval of Gladstone's present home rule policy; as we likewise condemn the conduct of the said Costigan and J. J. Curran, M.P., under pretence of party exigency, but really under dread of Orange displeasure, in supporting the passage of a resolution which is not only a rebuke to Gladstone, but an insult to genuine Irish feeling. Actuated by a sincere desire for your personal acquaintance, we hereby cordially invite you to address us on political questions of the day at a meeting which we will be happy to arrange for that purpose, some time before the next federal election, at Richmond, Que. Your decision and appointment, in this regard, at your early convenience, is anxiously awaited, by the undersigned, your humble servants: Jos. P. Scarry, John Scarry, Tim Scarry, Michael Scarry, Jas. Hannan, Jas. Hannan, Jr., J. W. Kennedy, John Linahan, Ed. Cooney, J. McQuillon, P. Walsh, J. F. Sinnott, L. Linahan, J. Crowe, J. Crowe, Jr., P. Riley, Jr., P. Riley, Jr., Bernard Riley, Jno. Riley, Wm. Costello, Thos. Costello, Michael Ling, Andrew McCormick, Thos. McCormick, Michael Cassidy, Mulcahy Crowe, John Cooney, L. A. Lane, Jno. O'Mara, Patrick O'Mara, Michael Flynn, L. Coughlin, Patrick Coughlin, Ed. Coughlin, B. McCanna, Chas. Cumiskey, Jos. Buteau, H. Buteau, R. Whelan, Chas. Costigan, and 100 others. June, 1886.

Home Rule in the House of Commons

May, 1886, for his record on that score is there and will remain forever. Now let us examine his record on that question, beginning with the year 1882. His anonymous biographer says that in that year he called his Home Rule column in the "Mail" the "Irish Question." But it is not necessary to go back to 1882, and notice them in the dust. But the said column, i.e. the Home Rule resolutions of 1882, were not of his doing or conception. He never wrote a word of them, neither did the idea of framing them and presenting them in the House originate with him. His part in them has been simply to move them in the House, which he did, after they had been made known to him by the St. Patrick's society of Ottawa to hold them still higher on the pedestal he referred to do so, and when Hon. Edward Blake and other members of the House, including Hon. Mr. T. Coughlin, essayed to do so, he, Costigan, then came forward at the bidding of his master, and followed by Curran and other so-called Irish Catholic representatives, as well as by true representatives of the Orange order, took hold of the line; they pulled together, hauled down the true Home Rule banner and ignominiously trailed it in the dust. Having done that, substituted a dark stained rag which proved highly acceptable to the Orange representatives in the House, and had it sent to the masses, to whom, of all other Canadian officials, such a dirty hunting should be sent.

Let us have a sample from history of what Ireland owes to the Scotch and English societies of the plantation of Ulster which have developed into Orangemen after the usurpation of William III., on whose behalf Mr. Costigan brought in his odious resolution. In 1683 a petition and appeal was lodged with the House of Lords of England from the English society of the new plantation of Ulster complaining of the Irish House of Lords, which had decided in a case between them and the Bishop of Derry. Upon this the English House of Lords passed an order declaring that this appeal was *coram non iudice*. The Irish House of Lords then asserted their rights and passed resolutions and protested against the English proceedings. This matter stood until 1703, when came the case of the Earl and Countess of Meath (against Lord Ward), who were dispossessed of their lands by a pretended order of the House of Lords of England, on which the Irish House of Peers, who had accepted the former resolutions, asserted their rights and restored possession to the Earl and Countess. In the same year (1703) the appeal of Maurice Annetley was entertained in England, and the decree of the Irish House of Peers was reversed. The English House of Lords had recourse to the authority of the Barons of the Exchequer in Ireland to enforce their high-handed order. The sheriff refused to act under such an order, and the Irish House of Lords protected their sheriff and agreed to a representation to the King on the subject. The King betrayed them, having received counter representations from the society of the New Plantation of Ulster, which representations produced the arbitrary Act VI. of George the First, which declared that Ireland was a subordinate and dependent kingdom; that the King, Lords and Commons of England had power to make laws to bind Ireland; that the House of Lords of Ireland had no jurisdiction, and that all proceedings before that court were void. That in the decisions of that court would not be in favor of the aforesaid society, however glaringly unjust their case might be. It is a wonder that Costigan and Company did not instruct Tupper to suggest to the English Government to give Ireland a Parliament based upon the 6th of George the First for the better protection of the Protestant minority in Ireland, particularly in Ulster, as they are so anxious about their future security from Popish persecution.

I will here draw a contrast: the Catholic question or claims had been discussed at various times in the Irish Parliament, and also in the English Parliament, February 20, 1786; February 22, 1793; May 13, 1805; May 25, 1808; May 31, 1811; April 23, 1812; February 25, 1813; March 2, 1813; March 9, 1813; May 11, 1813; May 24, 1813; May 21, 1816; May 9, 1817; May 3, 1819, etc. The object of such discussions was to restore to the Catholics the common law rights of eligibility to the provisions of the law of which they were unjustly deprived at the instance of the society of the old as well as the new Protestant plantation of Ulster. In May, 1886, the case of the Protestant minority in Ireland, laboring under no species of persecution whatever, was discussed in the British Parliament and also in the Canadian Parliament. The Catholics prayed to be relieved from the most odious yoke that ever oppressed a people; the Protestants, or, rather the Orangemen, prayed that they might be protected against their Catholic fellow countrymen lest they would persecute them at some future time, should Home Rule be granted to Ireland.

Mr. Orton and other Protestant members of the Commons of Canada declared that they had no fears for the Protestant minority in Ireland in the event of Home Rule being granted. Mr. Costigan, an Irish Catholic and a member of the Cabinet, (in effect) declared he had no fears for that minority, and hence embodied his fears in a slavish and uncalculated resolution which he put on record to the great dishonor of his race and creed and got it carried by a large majority, including the Irish Catholic members on the floor of the House—but a day of reckoning is before them. Well, sir, this record of Mr. Costigan is there, and will remain forever to be used against us by the Colliers, the Froudes and other anti-Catholic, anti-Irish historians. How does your so-called Irish Priest like that record of his friend, Will he further prelate in characterizing his hero as the sterling, whole-souled and patriotic John Costigan? Will he further protest against any one calling him a traitor? Should he so persist let him do so over his proper name and address, and I will discuss the subject with him over mine to his heart's content. As Mr. Costigan has already proved himself to be more of a party man than an Irishman, I, in common with tens of thousands of my fellow-countrymen, do energetically protest against any one, priest or layman, calling him a patriotic Irishman. A more anon; meanwhile I remain yours truly, LAYMAN. Granton, Ont., June 7th, 1886.

DECLARED INCURABLE. E. C. McKeown, of Syracuse, N. Y., who is a well-known resident of that place, was declared incurable by his physician, the disease being a complication of kidney and liver complaint. In two days he found relief in Burdock Blood Purifier, and in one month he entirely recovered.

A LETTER TO "THE WORLD."

Catholic Conservatives Must Go.

Editor Toronto World: It is as plain as the nose on my face that the "Mail" is a paper of racial and religious prejudices, and is a prominent part in the electoral struggle for which the politicians of Canada are busily preparing. The fact may be deplored but it cannot be denied. A struggle for place, pay and power is not a "thing of beauty and a joy forever," under ordinary circumstances, but such a struggle aggravated by the fanaticism of the race is a spectacle over which angels might weep without showing super-sensitiveness.

It has been for some time a matter of surprise that no representative Catholic of Conservative antecedents has taken the trouble of pointing out to those most concerned the kind of preparation that the "Mail" is making for the day of trial. Now if ever such representatives should make themselves felt, not merely for the sake of those of their fellow Catholics who have followed their fortunes, but to help to make them what they are—not the "party" of the "Mail," but the party of the future of which is at stake, but in their rank of our common country, which I believe every intelligent Canadian of every class and creed regards as of the first importance. It is no new thing for class representatives to be silent when silence ceases to be golden. It may be that in this case they are not dumb from fear or from selfish motives, but through failure to realize the delicacy and gravity of the situation. According to the more charitable, as the more probable, inference, I will call their attention to a few facts worthy of their distinguished consideration.

The "Mail's" part in the life controversy was not altogether discreet, but it is undoubtedly the best of the argument. The part was overdone, but it was a more honorable and logical part than the utterly insubstantial and infelicitously unparaphrased part played by the "Globe." In that case the "Mail's" fault was in not being too accurate to their ally, but as far as the true issue was concerned, its part was unimpaired. Moreover, the "Mail" was not a party paper, and it was not its duty to make a public apology, and it was not its duty to discuss in a temper the part of the "Globe" in which it was so harsh. Not so the Home Rule question. A Canadian must—I believe—ought to have his sympathies in the great controversy which at present convulses the mother country, but he is under no obligation to make a fool of himself in that behalf. I cannot understand how people who profess to honor the memories of the men who gave Canada a home government can cast their influence against the men who are endeavoring to secure a similar boon for Ireland. This is a point on which I do not intend to dwell, but I cannot understand such inconsistency and ingratitude. I am free to say to them that the liberty of thought and utterance which I claim for myself, whether upon this or upon any other subject, is the exercise of that liberty I do not feel free to misrepresent and malign, and to feel free to only to say again to those who differ from me, that the "Mail" is called upon to do, not to reason as applicable, by any rational mind, it applied Gladstone for throwing Parnell into jail without justification and keeping him there without trial. It denounces Gladstone because he confesses his mistake and offers to make reparation. For years it has exaggerated every crime committed in the south and west of Ireland, which are at least quite as free from crime as our own country—but it applauds the Orangemen who drill in Armagh and who murder a man in Belfast. Last week it regarded the proposition to withdraw the Irish members from Westminster as a menace to the integrity of the Empire, but to-day it characterizes Archbishop Walsh's argument for their retention as the outcome of a Popish plot. Yesterday the words of the courtier, Cardinal Cullen, were revived to show that Home Rule would involve injury to the church in Ireland, and to-day the "Mail" is called upon to do, not to reason as applicable, by any rational mind, it applied Gladstone for throwing Parnell into jail without justification and keeping him there without trial. It denounces Gladstone because he confesses his mistake and offers to make reparation. 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