

lucrative appointments under the Crown. The law prohibits the appointment of a Catholic Lord Lieutenant. There has never been a Catholic Secretary, and at the Castle I have never known more than one or two Catholics in important offices. There are a few Catholic judges, and several Catholic lawyers have forced their way to the bench; but though the great majority of the lawyers are Catholics the great majority of judges are Protestants. Is that what he meant by the status of the minority? Are we to ask that they are to be put on an equal footing with the majority?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Lord Lieutenant is the only one.

Mr. ANGLIN. Does the hon. gentleman mean that for all time to come that that shall continue?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He is a representative of the Queen. The Constitution provides that the Sovereign must be a Protestant.

Mr. ANGLIN. I am aware of that.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Very well, it is held by constitutional lawyers that the office of representative of the Sovereign there—the Lord Lieutenant is a Viceroy—must be a Protestant also.

Mr. ANGLIN. I am aware of that, but that is a matter that can be changed by due course of law.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh, yes.

Mr. ANGLIN. Materially it was not a matter of much consequence, but considered as one of sentiment and believing it is a matter of very great consequence that we are by law prohibited from occupying that office.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think so. I would be glad to see it repealed.

Mr. ANGLIN. I am trying to find out what this means, "the status of the minority is to be protected and secured." That is the only case in which the law makes any difference. I think it would have been very much better if those words were omitted. I shall not propose that they be omitted, in fact under the rules I could not, but I do not want to do anything that would prevent the unanimous passage of these resolutions. I think it of the greatest possible importance that they should be passed unanimously and the people and Government of England should hear us with one voice ask that Home Rule be granted to Ireland. There is another point I object to in these resolutions, that is, with regard to those called suspects. The passage says:

"We would further express a hope that the time has come when Your Majesty's clemency may, without injury to the interests of the United Kingdom, be extended to those persons who are now imprisoned in Ireland charged with political offences only, and the inestimable blessing of personal liberty restored to them."

I hope the hon. leader of the Government misunderstood the remarks made, for if not he treated very unfairly what was said by the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake). He assumed that the hon. gentleman wished to ask that persons charged with the most serious offences should be set free, that the jail doors of Ireland should be thrown open, and that persons guilty of the most enormous offences be allowed to go out. The hon. member never stated anything of the kind, and I cannot understand how the leader of the Government could have misunderstood him. What he did say and what I am prepared to repeat is that men who have been arbitrarily arrested and who are arbitrarily held in prison on no charge whatever, but on the extraordinary charge that there are reasons of their being suspected of committing some crime, and this in a country supposed to enjoy the glorious privileges of a British constitution, surely, Sir, it is a monstrous state of things that the Government of the country should sweep over that country, and upon information furnished it, may be by the very members of that landlord class who are affected by

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this agitation, and have learned to hate the agitators, seize them and put them into prison, without trial or hearing of any kind, merely because it is said they are reasonably suspected of being guilty of some political crime. These men deny that they are offenders of any kind. I find that there are, according to a telegram we received a few days ago, 510 of these men now in prison throughout Ireland, some not charged with political offences at all. There are men imprisoned for being suspected of murder, of arson, of violence against the person, others of provoking, others to like crimes.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The original resolutions which, I believe, the hon. gentleman saw and approved of, referred to the political prisoners in much the same terms as these.

Mr. ANGLIN. The original resolutions were defective in that respect, and I should probably have spoken of them in the same way that I am speaking of the present ones. Among these prisoners are such men as Mr. Parnell, a member of the British Parliament, a man of high character, of whom no one has ever been able to say that he has ever been guilty of any crime even the most venial; Mr. Dillon, another member of Parliament, as well as four or five others also members of the House, are also among the suspects accused of being suspected of the same treasonable practices. Mr. Arthur O'Connor, in Parliament, succeeded in extorting from the Irish Attorney-General an admission that a warrant was awaiting him should he ever set foot in Ireland, and yet he had the right to sit in Parliament the peer of any member there. He challenged the Government to put him on trial, that he was prepared to meet the charge against him openly, moving all plea of want of jurisdiction. That challenge was, of course, not accepted. That is a state of affairs that is, in my opinion, utterly unjustifiable and inadvisable. I have always deeply regretted, with my great regard for Mr. Gladstone and my high opinion of his ability and honesty of purpose, that he has allowed himself to be driven to resorting to means of this kind for the purpose of suppressing crime in Ireland. Some state, and not without some show of reason, that for the mere indulgence of personal spleen or pique he allowed himself to resort to measures which in history will attach to his name a stigma that I would gladly see removed from it. But we ought to ask for these men no clemency; when we ask for clemency, we place them in a position from which clemency only can relieve them. They would not ask clemency for themselves, Sir; they ask for justice and fair play; and only what they would ask for themselves should their friends ask for them. I would be ashamed, were I the mover of that resolution, to ask for clemency; I would ask for a trial and fair play. I know it has been said that it would be useless to put these men on their trial—that it is impossible to obtain the conviction of a political offender in Ireland; but for that there is no foundation whatever. A short time ago a number of persons were arrested charged with being members of a band of what are called "Moonlighters," charged with intimidating throughout the country, with seizing arms, and committing other illegal acts. The person who gave the information, as it turned out, was the person who organized these men. He was himself an old soldier, and when he was arrested by the police, on his person were found a watch and various other articles. That man's evidence was scarcely worth receiving against men charged with any serious offence; but in this case, which was tried in the City of Cork, which was said to be the very focus of discontent, there was no difficulty in obtaining a conviction of five of these men. That fact is conclusive proof that if these men were put on their trial, their would be no difficulty, if they were guilty, in convicting them. I have no hesitation in voting for the passing of these resolutions, but I wish it to be