

of Commons, and have shed a lustre of undying fame around the memory of their lives, devoted as they were to the political welfare of Great Britain, whilst many of them have adorned the walks of literature and science, and laid the English nation under an obligation that can never be repaid.

Now I must frankly state that from what I learned in England the greatest foes to Home Rule have been its so-called friends. Ireland has been grossly deceived. It has been singularly unfortunate in allowing sordid, unprincipled and alien adventurers to champion the sacred claims of Home Rule. No wonder the cause has been injured and delayed when its trusted leaders have been the associates and abettors of secret assassins and dynamiters. Such advocates would ruin any cause. Has not every principle of common decency been outraged and justice defied by these men? But that is at an end now and never can be revived. Men like Dillon, Davitt, and Justin McCarthy believe in constitutional agitation and a great educative process is going on in England upon this question. The English working man (who is usually an intelligent politician) has grasped the principles of this great movement, and it is his voice that has been heard and his vote that has sent the Liberals back to power to mete out long delayed justice to their oppressed and down-trodden Irish fellow citizens. Nothing struck me so much in England as the change in the balance of political power. The working man is king there. He wields a potent influence there. Talk about an aristocracy. The real ruling aristocracy in England are the artisan voters, and I am not afraid of the results in their hands. And the English working man has demanded Home Rule for Ireland as the initial step in that great revolutionary movement now going on in Great Britain, and which must end in Home Rule for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Another and perhaps a more serious objection raised is, that

Home Rule means Rome Rule. This is a cry and only a cry; although I am an Englishman and a Protestant, it has no terrors for me. Let any sensible man ask what could Rome rule? The Police, the Judiciary or the Revenue? All these would be regulated by the United Legislature in Dublin, irrespective of creed. Do we have any need to complain in this respect in Canada? Why should they in Ireland? Rome, as we have been taught to regard it, is far more powerful in Canada than in Ireland, and yet no one troubles or feels alarmed about it here. The only thing that should be insisted on is that education in Ireland shall be absolutely free and unsectarian. Neither a minister nor a priest should be allowed to address a school on any religious doctrine: leave these matters to the churches, Sunday Schools and other religious organizations and give every Irish boy and girl a good, sound, plain education, untrammelled by any religious notions, and this bugbear of Rome Rule will disappear before the advancing steps of the intelligent rising generation. And do not let anybody be afraid of Ulster and Home Rule. There would be a few meetings, a few high flown resolutions, but no fighting—except in the newspapers. Intellectual people would simply accept the situation and fall into line, and ultimately be its warmest supporters. □

So let Home Rule come, as come it will. No one can properly estimate the influence our own Edward Blake will have in shaping the future and furthering the progress of this great movement which is agitating the English mind at the present time. Give Ireland its one Separate Legislature in Dublin; give it full national powers, only let it be insisted on that education shall be purely secular and Ireland will solve this much perplexed Home Rule question in a manner so peaceful and thorough that the next generation will be able to look on a happy, loyal and contented Irish people.