

pay a cent, Canada, as the ignominious failure of the tour of these delegates proved to them, and as this magnificent demonstration to Mr. Davitt proves, is solid for Home Rule. (Loud cheers.) Canadian sentiment has been well expressed by a prominent Protestant clergyman of this city who has written: "I would not deprive any Christian people under Heaven of the rights which we ourselves possess." (Cheers.) He is not the only Protestant clergyman in this city that is with us in this cause. Since we began our preparations for this lecture we have received from these gentlemen many letters expressing sympathy with our cause and assurances of their good wishes for its success. And, to-night, in the town of Aylmer, that most fearless, patriotic and powerful advocate of our rights, the Rev. Dr. Burns of Hamilton, the Principal of a Wesleyan College, is speaking the kind word on our behalf.

I would not, ladies and gentlemen, have referred to the delegates from the Loyal and Patriotic Union were it not for the unmanly and unchristian attack made upon Mr. Davitt when they were here. (Hisses.) Never have I witnessed in a public man such an exhibition of venom and bitterness against an honorable opponent, and I trust I shall never again behold so sorry a spectacle as when the Rev. Dr. Kane pronounced the name of Mr. Michael Davitt with such a sneer and with such a distorted pronunciation as to cause the laughter of the thoughtless and the disgust of his refined hearers. (Hear, hear.) And never did I hear so heartless and atrocious an utterance as when he was called a "beggar and impostor," who spent nine years of his life in penal servitude for the cause of his country—(loud and prolonged cheering)—who gave, as he gives to-night, his best energies to relieve the distress of his unfortunate country, who is ever seeking to advance and improve their moral and social condition, who is "ever prompting, ever seeking, some improvement yet to plan to uplift his fellow-beings, and like man feels for man." (Cheers.) I am sure that Mr. Davitt has had many bitter and sad experiences of prison life, but I am also sure he would go back to his prison rather than betray his country and exchange positions with his slanderers. Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I trust, on your behalf, that health and long life will be given to Mr. Davitt to continue his noble work—(cheers)—for his struggle in Ireland is watched by the whole world, and every step that is being made in Ireland in behalf of freedom is a step being made in the same direction throughout the world. For—

"When a deed is done for freedom,
Through the broad world's aching breast
Runs a thrill of joy prophetic,
Trembling on from East to West.
And the slave, where'er he cowers,
Feels the soul within him climb
To the awful verge of manhood.
As the energies sublime
Of centuries burst full-blossomed
On the thorny stems of time."

Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud of this moment, proud to be able to present to you the patriotic, unselfish, self-sacrificing, noble Michael Davitt.

MICHAEL DAVITT.

Mr. Davitt then stepped to the front, and again there was a grand outburst of applause. As soon as this had subsided the great Irishman proceeded thus, speaking deliberately, clearly, and in measured terms:—Ladies and gentlemen—Judging from the hearty greeting you have given me here to-night and from the general kindness that has been extended to me since I arrived in your city, I do not think it will be necessary for me to apologize for coming here to say something on the Irish cause. (Applause.) But, indeed, I am not astonished at the

HEARTINESS OF THE RECEPTION

you have extended me, because I know whenever any representative of Ireland has been in your midst you have given him the same generous welcome that you have given me. Now, before addressing you upon the subject of my lecture this evening, perhaps I may be permitted to trespass for a few minutes upon your time in referring to some statements made here a short time ago by the two gentlemen to whom our chairman has alluded. I will not imitate their example—(applause)—by casting any aspersions upon their motives or calling into question for one moment the honesty of their purpose. This world would indeed be a sad place to live in if we were compelled to