

out a measure of great State policy in Ireland.

The bill would certainly not have a healing effect upon the first:

It is not only in their judgment a harsh and an unjust measure, but it has been accompanied by harsh and cruel words. One member of the government has thought it decent and becoming to tell those Irish Protestants in the hour of their dismay and of their suffering, when they are reeling under a blow inflicted by the hand of England upon our most faithful and loyal fellow-subjects—I say one member of the government has thought it decent and becoming under those circumstances to tell us that he is offending a clique, but has conciliated a nation. (Cheers.) These words, my lords, will rankle long in the hearts of these people. They say that, having long been your faithful and devoted servants in upholding the authority of this country, at a time when she sorely needed it, you are now about to cast them off without even a kind word of gratitude in return for their devoted loyalty.

But it was said that their irritation was but momentary:

We are told we are assisting at something like a launch of the Irish Church, and not its wreck, and that a number of affectionate, faithful, and earnest volunteers are engaged in knocking away its shores to let the ship out on the open sea. Foremost among these volunteers on this occasion are some of the English members of the English Church, admirable vicars and other dignitaries, all full of generous anxiety to bestow on

their reverend brethren in Ireland that measure of apostolic poverty for which they have exhibited no particular affection themselves. (Cheers and laughter.) If these reverend and very reverend clergymen and gentlemen who are so generously exhorting the Irish clergy to swallow, even without a wry face, the potion prepared for them by Her Majesty's government, would have the kindness to do what nurses do to children, and just take the least sip of the potion, their views on the subject, I cannot help thinking, may undergo some change. (Laughter.) He confessed that on simple disestablishment it had gone against the Irish Church; but not as to endowment. The measures instead of being "gracious and generous," as promised on the hustings, had been declared in the House of Commons to be "sweeping and severe." In the magnificent peroration to the speech by which the bill was introduced in the other house—a peroration which must still ring in the ears of those who heard it—its distinguished author spoke of the spectacle which England would present to the civilized world when she came to perform this magnanimous act of justice and penitence:

What a magnanimous sight! The first thing that this magnanimous British nation does in the performance of this act of justice and penitence is to put into her pocket the annual sum she has been in the habit of paying Maynooth, and to compensate Maynooth out of the funds of the Irish Church. (A laugh.) The Presbyterian mem-