

AN IRISH ELECTION.

Typical Speech of Mr. T. M. Healy.

THE DESERTION OF SWEETMAN

The election which was brought on in Wicklow recently by the resignation of Mr. Sweetman, and which was terminated by the defeat of that gentleman at the polls, was very exciting all through. Speaking in support of Mr. O'Kelly, the Nationalist candidate, Mr. T. M. Healy said:

Well, we are here in mighty good humor, and nobody crying after Mr. Sweetman, and nobody asking him to leave us a lock of his hair, though, perhaps, that is because you can borrow some of Field's. (Laughter.) Why are we not in any way down-hearted? Why do none of you wear crape or widow's weeds? Because the widowed County Wicklow is going to get a very good second husband. (Cheers and laughter.) The man who broke his pledge will be buried on Friday, and on Saturday upon the declaration of the poll Wicklow will have married O'Kelly, and I think it will be a lifelong match between them. (Loud cheers.) Still, while we are in good humor we must recognize that there is a serious side to this business. (Hear, hear.) We have been striving for a great many years to maintain in Parliament a party of the people. It was split in twain four years ago, not by its own fault, not by anything arising out of the rank and file, not upon any question of policy, but upon a personal, singularly domestic issue, which I won't now discuss with you. Two parties then sprung up, and at the general election our party, which was not forty strong, became double in number, and the Parnellite party, which was thirty strong, was reduced to nine. (Cheers.) Therefore, one would think that every sensible man or honest Irishman would have been prepared to take the verdict of his country on the controversy when he found 72 men went one way and only nine went the other. (Cheers.) Supposing you were a man from China or Japan, wouldn't you be inclined to say to yourself, I think these 72 men must have some right on their side? (Hear, hear.) Yet these nine men kept their course, and the canker of division remained, and while we were trying to bale out the boat and make her staunch and caulk the leaks, they were trying to open the seams and let water pump into the hold. (Cheers.) So, now a member of our own party, without rhyme or reason, while we have been trying to extinguish the cause of the trouble and reduce its area of discord and bring down the inflammation, and get rid of the sore that was festering in our country's back, instead of applying a poultice to the ulcer of division,

TRIES TO POISON AND ENVENOM THE CONTROVERSY,

and stir up the causes of strife. (Cheers.) What was his excuse? He says he has great fault to find with the policy of the Government and that things are not going on as they ought to go in the party.

But that was the excuse Martin Luther alleged when he turned Protestant three hundred years ago. Martin did not think that things were going on all right in the Church, and signs on, you have Hallows bellowing here to-day disturbing everybody—(cheers and laughter)—and Sweetman, instead of trying to bring about reforms within the ranks goes out and tries to create schism and heresy amongst the people. (Cheers.) If things are not going on right with the Government should we not remonstrate and bring pressure upon the

Government, and if things are not going on right in the Party ought we not to try, instead of disrupting and breaking up the Party, to seek to bring about amendment and reform within its fold? (Loud cheers.) Yet what does Mr. Sweetman do? He goes and practically brands his seventy colleagues who had been working in the ranks with him for three years in confidential communication with him, and turns his coat and deserts to the side of our worst enemies. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Sweetman says the Government has done nothing for Ireland. Well in former times the Government of this country was a Government of your enemies—the House of Lords and the House of Commons joined together like the blades of a scissors to shear and fleece you or take your heads off. Consequently you looked upon the Government as an all-powerful thing. Now one great party in the State has come over to your side in the House of Commons, but you find that the other great party still entrenched in the House of Lords; and though the Government can control the police and the soldiers and the administrative action for the time being, it is not yet all-powerful, as you have been in the habit of regarding it. (Hear, hear.) Well,

WHAT DO SWEETMAN AND THE PARNELLITES PROPOSE TO DO,

in these difficult and novel circumstances, to overcome the obstruction of the Lords? They propose to support the Tory Party of the House of Commons. (Groans.) On every occasion this Session they have voted with the Tories. Even on the question of Speakership they voted for the Coercionist who supported Balfour's bill which put your priests in jail. (Groans.) Show me your company and I will tell you what you are. Rev. Mr. Hallows and Lord Carysfort prefer the Parnellite side, and the Redmondite Party in the House of Commons are always taking the Tory side. (Hear, hear.) Now, supposing here in Arklow you had an election for a poor-law guardian or town commissioner, or a dispensary doctor, or even a town scavenger, and you found the Tories all one way, wouldn't you think it very strange if you found your priests and those in whom you trusted went in favor of the enemies of the people?

That is what the Redmondite Party has done with regard to the Speakership. (Groans.) When they do that, and when you find that the Government is not able to do as much as it liked for Ireland owing to Tory action, can you wonder if the Land Bill has not as good a chance of passing into law as it would have if we were all working cheerily and heartily in favor of a friendly Administration? (Cheers.)

WHAT HAS MR. REDMOND SAID ABOUT THE LAND BILL?

First he called it "a fraud." That was rather poor christening for that child. Then he called it "a farce." Next he said it was "foolish" to expect it to pass. "Fraud, farcical, and foolish"—(laughter)—these are the Redmondite "Three F's." (Laughter.) Then he said it "never would have been introduced only for the pressure of the Redmondite Party."

Therefore his party compelled the introduction of a Bill that was a fraud and farcical foolishness. (Cheers and laughter.) Again he declared: "I am convinced that the Bill would never have been introduced at all were it not for the pressure of Independent members in Parliament." Yet upon that he says it was introduced "for the purpose of humbugging and hoodwinking the farmers." (Laughter.) Why the man cannot tell the truth in two consecutive sentences. (Cheers.) If the Bill was introduced owing to the pressure of Redmondites, and still was introduced to hoodwink the people, what can you think of the Redmondites or of the man who cannot

remember one minute what he said the minute before? (Laughter.) Then he goes on to say that the "whole Land Bill scheme was devised for the purpose of inducing the people of Ireland to tolerate the continuance of the support of the Liberal Party by the Irish members in the House of Commons." (Laughter.) Still, he adds—"It is, as it stands, a good Land Bill." (Laughter.) And, most ridiculous of all, he says—"We will try to amend it." (Renewed laughter.) These, forsooth, are our statesmen. (Cheers.) Why, the two Redmonds put together—John and Billy—have not sufficient knowledge between them, if rolled into Siamese Twins, to frame a sensible amendment to a Land Bill. (Cheers and laughter.) I blame Mr. Sweetman not so much for his desertion, which is bad enough, as for the time that he chose to desert and the men he deserted to. (Hear.) His majority at the election three years ago was 205, and he went over to the enemy when he knew that 810 of the Arklow fishermen were on the broad Atlantic ocean who were his supporters in 1892. (Cheers.) If by any misfortune the Tory should be returned again for Wicklow, I say the name of Sweetman would be spoken in Ireland accompanied only by maledictions and curses. (Cheers.) He says there is no truth in the statement that he has made a bargain with the Tories, and to prove this he says that the Tory is standing against him. Well, I would rather he had enough sense to have had a bargain with the Tories, and I will tell you why. Because bad as Mr. Sweetman's conduct is, I would rather see him sitting for Wicklow than the Tory, who would oppose the Land Bill.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE MEN WHO WOULD IMPERIL THIS SEAT

where his majority at the last election was only 205, and cast your county over to the Tory blood-hound and exterminator? (Groans.) It was as reckless, as foolish, and as criminal an act as that of a soldier placed in the gap who sold the pass to the enemy. (Cheers.) He knew the constituency was in a ticklish and delicate position politically. The majority was small, and Mr. Sweetman was bound to hold the fort and keep afloat the flag of Ireland. Yet he pulls down our flag, and he gives the key of the position politically into the hands of the Knight of the Battering Ram, Col. Tottenham (cheers), and all on the pretence that he was afraid of becoming a voting machine for Lord Rosebery. (Hear, hear.) If Mr. Sweetman gets into the House of Commons he will vote with the Tory party. But he will never get in again (cheers), and he is the last Sweetman that will sit in the House in our day and generation. (Loud cheers.)

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