

broken through it is impossible to say what might have been the result politically, but in any case it must have proved disastrous to the interest of the Irish Catholics. Meeting after meeting was held to bring forward a candidate; the names of many prominent citizens were mentioned, amongst others the present Mr. Justice Doherty, but the Protestant section refused to hear of any unless Mr. M. P. Ryan, who had most emphatically refused to offer himself, should be the candidate. No doubt those who desired to see the Irish people deprived of their representation, never dreamt that Mr. Ryan would consent to sacrifice his business, involving hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, for the profitless task to him of sitting in Parliament, and the late Mr. Morland, a gentleman of high standing, was ready in the background to step forward, with the whole support of the Government, to snatch the coveted prize. Mr. Ryan's patriotism had now to stand a severe test. His fellow-countrymen, those who had, with himself, followed the fortunes of the late lamented McGee, and those who had fought hardest on the other side, were clustered around him, and responsive to the solicitations of clergy and laity he consented to accept the candidature that he in no way desired, and which, whilst it preserved the seat to his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, was destined to be one of the causes of the great commercial misfortunes that overtook him later on. Thus, however, was finally settled the question of Irish-Catholic representation in the city of Montreal, and so effectually that no political party, without courting inevitable defeat, can afford to trample upon that acknowledged right. It is only just here to observe that amongst the Protestant minority in the electoral division several gentlemen distinguished themselves by their efforts to maintain the *entente cordiale* by every means in their power. Mr. Peter Redpath, whose name had been mentioned as a prospective candidate, cast his powerful influence in favor of Mr. Ryan, and expressed himself delighted to withdraw in his favor, whilst too much praise cannot be given to Messrs. Alfred Perry,

Henry Bulmer, G. W. Weaver, Colonel A. A. Stevenson and others for the manly stand they adopted in the electoral committees for securing to their Irish Catholic fellow citizens their fair share of popular representation. Mr. Ryan was, therefore, elected by acclamation in 1868, and again in 1872. In the memorable campaign of 1874, the late Mr. Devlin opposed Mr. Ryan, in the interest of the Reform party, but was defeated by 383 votes. On a subsequent occasion, the seat having been declared vacant, Mr. Devlin succeeded in carrying the election by a majority of 73, but at the last general election, when the Liberal-Conservative party appealed to the people with the "National Policy" as their main plank, Mr. Ryan defeated his opponent by the sweeping majority of 802.

In Parliament, Mr. Ryan occupies positions on most of the important committees of the House. He seldom speaks, except on questions affecting the interest of the people he more especially represents, and on subjects affecting the fiscal policy of the country, when he commands universal attention and respect. His devotion to his party is well known, but it has never led him so far as to swerve for one moment from the strict path of duty. On the New Brunswick school question, in the exciting and bitter controversy on the Manitoban difficulty, in a word, on every occasion where manly independence was necessary, Mr. Ryan showed that by voice and vote he was prepared to stand by the good cause, let the consequence to governments or political parties be what they might. When the Northern Colonization Railway enterprise was first brought before the people for their consideration, Mr. Ryan was appointed one of the Directors, and took an active part in popularizing a scheme that was to do so much good to the Province and country at large. Unfortunately, amid his multitudinous occupations, the great financial crisis of 1875 burst upon the commercial community, and he, like many others, was forced to succumb to the inevitable. He had, nevertheless, the satisfaction of seeing his integrity vouched for by every pub-