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IRELAND DURING THE PAST YEAR AND AT PRESENT.

Since the first publication of *THE HARP* we have, in every issue, made some reference to the progress of the Home Rule movement in Ireland. We think and believe it is our duty to do so, as it is the unanimous wish of our countrymen at home and abroad that Ireland should and *must* have self-government. We are proud to see by the receipt of Irish national journals that the enthusiasm in its favour is in no way abated, and that agitation is the rule of the day.

In several counties and cities in Ireland demonstrations have taken place in favor of the movement, and it is creditable to see that, notwithstanding the predictions of the English press, every meeting, &c., has gone on smoothly and with the greatest success that could be wished for by the most ardent lovers of Ireland.

Cork city—that brave “Rebel Cork”—has renewed its pledge to give the movement its valuable aid. Wexford, which stood for Ireland in memorable '98, has renewed its pledge of fealty to the Home Rule cause; and last, though not least, we have the “City of the Violated Treaty” giving a splendid reception to its representatives, one of whom is the “Father” of Home Rule.

Limerick city should be proud of having the two members which are now its representatives. Of Mr. Butt, nothing need be said; but of Mr. O'Shaugnessy, his colleague, who was an untried man until elected by the patriotic citizens of Limerick, it is gratifying to see the practical business man he has proved to be.

Every year Mr. Butt goes to Limerick, to give an account of his “stewardship,” and he has done so on the 26th of October last to as large an audience as ever listened to his splendid orations in that ancient city. He gave a full account of how the Home Rule members

worked during the last session of the English Parliament; their agitation for Home Rule, Amnesty, &c.; and also pictured the entire absence of the British Constitution in Ireland.

In commencing his speech he said: “Mr. Mayor and people of Limerick—I come now for the third time, according to custom, and I think it is a wholesome one, of giving what I technically call an account of what I, as your representative, have been doing. I rejoice to meet the people of Limerick. (Hear, hear.) I say, emphatically, the people, because I represent, as the Constitution supposes, the entire people of this city—not the mere electors—to protest against the unjust policy that has been pursued towards Ireland; and, I think, the more we trust and the more we take the people into our councils, the stronger we will be.” (Cheers.) He spoke about the momentous events that passed since he had last the pleasure of addressing his constituents. Since he last gave an account of his stewardship, they had given him the renewal of his lease at the general election. He thanked them for it, but he thanked them more so, because they had given him a colleague of which he was proud. They had 60 members out of 103, which is a larger majority than the Conservative government had out of the entire Parliament. Therefore, he said, he was justified in saying that Ireland had unequivocally, and by a most decided majority, declared in favour of Home Government. If they (the Home Rule members) had only in the last session accomplished the one thing of forming a consolidated Irish party, who resisted the allurements held out to them to throw in their lot with English parties—if they only did that, he believed they had done a great deal for the country. He explained the opposition they had given to the infamous Coercion Bill, which is already well known to our readers, and he believed in his conscience that if Ireland was tranquil during this winter, this infamous Coercion Act would never be renewed. “My complaint,” he says, “of our present system of government is, that Ireland has nothing like a constitutional or free Government. That is apparent in every department of Irish government, and in every branch of Irish legislation. I want to convince the Irish people of this, that the whole system of governing Ireland is one gigantic, complicated, and well-devised plan for excluding us from the benefits of the Constitution of England.” He showed how, in England, every householder is entitled to vote for the Town