

THE IRISH CAUSE.

A LECTURE DELIVERED BY

MICHAEL DAVITT.

Nearly 4,000 people assembled at the Adelaide street Rink Saturday night to listen to the lecture delivered by Mr. Michael Davitt, the founder of the Irish National League, and the great audience showed itself unanimously in sympathy with the object aimed at by the League—Home Rule for Ireland. The enthusiasm was immense, especially on particular occasions, such as when Mr. Davitt entered the room, and again when Mr. J. A. Mulligan, the President of the local branch of the Irish National League, in his opening remarks referred to the nine years that Mr. Davitt had spent in penal servitude for the cause of his country. The cheering was most enthusiastic at this point, and long continued. The immense meeting was presided over by Mr. Mulligan and with him on the platform sat the orator of the evening, and many of the gentlemen who had called upon Mr. Davitt and Mr. McCarthy during the afternoon. Among those present were Messrs. J. Conmee, ex-M. P. P., Ald. John Woods, Hugh McMahon, Charles Burns, J. P., D. J. O'Donoghue, Hon. John O'Donohoe, Alfred Jury, N. G. Bigelow, Ald. Defoe, Phillips Thompson, C. Doherty, P. Curran, T. W. Anglin, together with many of the Roman Catholic clergy of the city; while in the audience sat Messrs. P. Hughes, B. B. Hughes, H. Nolan, John A. Proctor, Ald. M. J. Woods, and many other prominent citizens.

Before introducing the lecturer the chairman called on Mr. D. A. Cahill, the secretary of the local League branch, to read letters of apology received from gentlemen unable to attend the gathering. The letters were from Mr. J. O'Sullivan, of Peterborough, Rev. Dr. Burns, of Hamilton, and many others.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. J. A. Mulligan, President of the Local Union, Chairman of the meeting, in introducing Mr. Davitt, spoke as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—On behalf of the Toronto Branch of the Irish National League, I thank you for the magnificent attendance that to-night greets the father of our society upon his first public appearance in this Dominion. (Cheers.) It is a most pleasing and convincing proof of the popularity in this city of our distinguished guest, and of the noble cause which he represents and will advocate to-night. It is barely ten weeks since two delegates from the Loyal and Patriotic and Anti-Repeal Union of Ireland visited our city. They are welcome to boast of their opposition to Home Rule. But if the representatives of that union who declared that they would take up arms against constituted authority if Home Rule were given to Ireland, and "would shed," to quote their own words, "their last drop of blood to prevent the fulfilment of the law," although we know "the first who would run at the sound of a gun would be the Billy of Ballykillbeg" (cheers)—if these men are entitled to the name of "Loyal and Patriotic," then the crime of treason and sedition should be effaced from the statute books at once. (Cheers.) They endeavored to convince Canadians, who enjoy and appreciate Home Rule, who prized it as their greatest blessing, and who would not relinquish it without a struggle that would be worthy of the Canadians of 1837, that Ireland does not need and has not a right to Home Rule. But, with the exception of a few selfish and strangely inconsistent people who could be found in this, as in every community, who would not accord to others the rights which they themselves enjoy, and who can always be found at a free show, although their peculiar patriotism will never