

should not be cancelled. We meet under the shadow of a national disaster. It is a disaster which has fallen not upon Ireland alone, but upon that whole Empire which had come to recognize in Mr. Redmond a statesman of imperial significance, and upon that whole brotherhood of free nations which can so ill spare at this time a leader so faithful to the cause of freedom throughout the world. It is the unanimous tribute of those who were closely associated with him and of those who observed him from afar, of men who differed from his policy not less than of those who aided or followed him, of his most candid critics whether in the press or on the platform or in parliament, that in him a patriot of rare insight and of the purest quality has passed away. But we felt that no decision could have been more remote from the mind and wish of the great man whom we have lost than that we should think to do him honour by ignoring that symbolic day which recalls to us the ideals of national unity for which he lived, and that we could not commemorate him better than by meeting here to keep alive the spirit which he did so much to inspire. Perhaps it will be most appropriate to this toast that I should speak shortly of what Ireland owes to Mr. Redmond, of the stimulus which she has drawn from his work, and which, we trust, she will long continue to draw from his memory.

If the democratic temper had not been so strong in him, he might easily have been tempted to an overweening pride of lineage. You will look long and far among noble houses for a descent quite so ancient as his. The poet has warned us against thinking too much of Norman blood, and perhaps our surest guarantee against doing so is that so little Norman blood now survives about which we can think at all. Every English genealogist knows that it is a rare genealogical tree indeed whose roots go back farther than the Wars of the Roses, while most of them come to an abrupt and a very significant breaking point at the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. Mr. Redmond, although it was the last thing of which he would have chosen to boast, was one of the very few to whom the description "Norman blood" might have been applied with literal exactness. A direct ancestor of his was one of the ablest lieutenants who landed as the advance guard of Strongbow on the coast of Wexford just