

ceedings have relieved me of some topics; fortunately indeed, since far more remains than I can accomplish. We began by a musical inquiry, "Who Fears to Speak of '98?" and after your response I need only answer, "No one save the author of the ballad." Then Mr. Connell gave us a very eloquent statement of the foundation of our National claim.

GENERAL PROGRESS OF CAUSE.

And you, Mr. Chairman, supplied a spirited argument, much needed now, showing how far and how fast the great movement has in a generation advanced; and how little ground there is for despair of ultimate triumph, even in the midst of temporary stagnation. I fully agree. But it cannot be denied that our cause has, for the time, receded; and, though I believe it is but the ebbing of a tide, which will some day flow full and high again, yet, since it is my purpose to suggest the cause and the remedy for the present reflux, I must dwell more on the dull present than on the brighter past.

Now, everyone agrees that Nationalist Ireland is paralysed by dissension;

ATTITUDE OF SOME BRITISH HOME RULERS.

And we see in this island significant changes in some of the Parliamentary Home Rulers.

ABANDONMENT.

Some, a very few only, abandon Home Rule plainly. To these apostates you and I have no word to say.

Others propose its indefinite postponement. Why?

POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE OF LOCAL COUNCILS.

Some, forsooth, because, at last, County and District Councils are to be set up in Ireland; a great reform, doubtless, but on which no one, Liberal or Tory, ever before insulted the Irish Nation by suggesting it as a substitute or satisfaction for the National demand. That demand stands exactly where it did.