

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.