

# AM I REMEMBERED.

BY THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE.

Am I remembered in Erin?  
I charge you to tell me true—  
Has my name a sound, a meaning,  
In the scenes my boyhood knew?  
Does the heart of the mother ever  
Recall the exile's name?  
For to be forgot in Erin  
And earth is all the same.  
Oh, Mother, Mother Erin!  
Many sons your age hath seen;  
Many gifted, constant lovers,  
Since your mantle first was green.  
Then may I hope to cherish,  
The dream that I could be  
In your crowded memory remembered,  
With that palm-covered company?  
Yes, faint and fair, my Mother  
As the hope shines on my sight,  
I cannot choose but snatch it  
Till my eyes have lost their sight.  
For never among your brightest  
And never among your best  
Was heart more true to Erin  
Than beats within my breast.

## HOME RULE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

[From the Dublin Correspondence of the 'Advocate']

THE first debate on the question of Home Rule for Ireland has come off in the House of Commons. There was considerable difficulty in getting a day for it. Mr Butt had ballotted for a favourable occasion several times without success, and the Government would not come to his rescue. At last, however, he had the good fortune to secure the 30th of last month. But, just then, the Government began to feel that the remainder of the session absolutely at their disposal would not suffice for the business they had in demand; and they consequently brought forward a resolution by which all future Tuesdays, as well as Mondays and Thursdays, should be given up to Government Bills—a resolution the passing of which would undo Mr Butt, as the 30th of June fell on a Tuesday. And this resolution was carried—but not without such a protest from the Home Rulers as induced the Government to promise that the Tuesday secured to Mr Butt would not be appropriated by them after all. And so the debate came off as had been settled.

A great proof that Home Rule has already attained the dignity of a great question, is supplied by the crowded state of the House itself, and of all the galleries in the House. Over 500 were in attendance, and all the leading men, with the exception of Mr Gladstone and one or two other members of the late Ministry, were amongst the earliest arrivals. The galleries were simply crammed—the strangers' gallery especially. Many hundreds who had obtained orders to this place went away without getting into it. In the speaker's gallery were many distinguished persons—amongst the rest, as the readers of the 'Advocate' will be delighted to hear, Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who had arrived from the Continent a few days before, and was, during the debate, the centre of a throng of Irish Home Rule members. I have no doubt that, as he sat in the place of honor, under the clock, he more than once longed for the opportunity to take part for old Ireland in the fray proceeding beneath.

In presence of such an audience, Mr Butt rose to move the motion you will find in your exchanges. My space will not allow me to summarise his address. I have only to tell its general character, and the manner in which it was received. Mr Butt is, beyond all doubt, a great orator, and can take a comprehensive grasp of his subject. But he requires a sympathetic audience—a mass meeting of his own countrymen, for instance—to appear at his best. The House of Commons is not such an audience, I need not hardly say, and accordingly, Mr Butt did not deliver as great a speech as he was capable of delivering. Nevertheless, he rose to a grand height. He was very moderate in tone; he was extremely lucid always; he was eloquent and passionate, betimes. The 'Times,' said, the day after, that his speech was the best of the Parliamentary kind ever delivered at Westminster; and this eulogy was echoed by every other critic, English and Irish, who busied himself with the subject. Mr Butt spoke for an hour and a-half, and, having been listened to with unusual attention, made a great impression, I may say one word. His speech is not well reported in any paper, English or Irish.

Mr George Bryan, senior member for the County Kilkenny, was appointed to second Mr Butt's proposition. He rose, accordingly, to speak when Mr Butt sat down. But he did not succeed in "catching the speaker's eye;" and it is to be regretted he did not; for he is a great favourite, I understand, with the English members, and, besides, he is an aristocrat of many acres and of great social influence. But, although, he did not speak, the speech he intended to deliver was given the next day in one of the Dublin papers as having been actually delivered. This thing occurred with another member, as will be seen presently; and it leads me to remark that the Irish daily papers contained very bad reports of the debate, showed, and indeed, continue to show, no enterprise whatever in procuring an adequate account of what passes in Parliament regarding Ireland.

The gentleman that actually did speak after Mr Butt was Dr Ball, the Attorney-General for Ireland, who delivered a vigorous, if not eloquent, address against the Irish national demand, and infused an acrimonious spirit into the debate, uttering threats now and then, and even holding insulting language towards the Home Rule members. This is the hon. gentleman's usual attribute; he is an able bully. His

declamation, however, would be much more effective and impressive if he were not known to be a humbug and a mere advocate for money; for every one here knows that it was a long time before he could make up his mind in which political camp he would seek his fortune, and that if he were better paid by the Home Rulers than by the Tories, he would be a Home Ruler himself. However, his speech was effective in the House of Commons; and I may here add that the only really clever and animated attacks on Home Rule came from Irishmen—or, rather West Britons. I may here also indicate the general line adopted by Dr. Ball and all the speakers on that side. They violently declared that Home Rule must never be granted; and when they condescended to argue the question they confined themselves to wretched little objections to Mr Butt's plan, which would all disappear, you may be sure, like darkness from the sun, if it were once agreed that Ireland should have self-government. In answer to the Irish arguments, their reply was substantially—"We won't grant your demand." The other speakers on Dr. Ball's side were the late Chief Secretary for Ireland (the Marquis of Hartington), a couple of insignificant Orangemen from the North of Ireland, Dr Smyth, the Presbyterian clergyman who sits in the Liberal interests for County Derry, who took the line that Home Rule would not further the independence or prosperity in Ireland, and who bids fair to become a Home Ruler; and an English member, unknown to fame.

Mr Butt's supporters during the evening were Mr Richard Power, the young member for Waterford City, who demonstrated, by a powerful series of facts and figures, that Ireland is going headlong to material ruin, and that there is no middle course for England between Home Rule and coercion; Colonel White (senior M.P. for Tipperary, son of a Peer, Lord-Lieutenant of Clare, and a Colonel in the Guards), who repelled, in terms of great and just indignation, the imputation that Home Rulers were disloyal and meant to dismember the Empire; Mr Keyes O'Clery, M.P. for Wexford; and Mr A. M. Sullivan, of the 'Nation.' The last-named delivered the most effective speech of the night. The 'Times' has referred to it again and again as "clever" and "ingenious." The London 'Spectator,' speaking after the division, said it was "by far the best speech of the whole debate on the Home Rule side," and that it showed that true oratory had not died out in Ireland or in Parliament. The real truth is, Mr Sullivan is one of the few real debaters in the House ready to get up at a moment's notice, and reply fluently and pointedly to any man. On this occasion, he wound up the debate, following, at midnight, the Marquis of Hartington, and giving that slow-going individual such a dressing as he will not soon forget, and he never got before. Dr Ball and the other anti-Irish speakers came, in their turn, under Mr Sullivan's lash; and so effective was Mr Sullivan's address, though he was but half an hour speaking altogether, that the Government, having no man ready to reply just then, actually did not like to go to a division, and assented to the adjournment of the debate.

On Thursday night the discussion was resumed by Mr John George McCarthy, the member for Mallow (Thomas Davis's native town), and the author of a most successful book on Federalism and Home Rule. On this occasion Mr McCarthy went into all the details of the Federal plan, and showed how well suited that plan was to the cause of Ireland and England. Mr Mitchell Henry (County Galway), The O'Connor Don (County Roscommon), Mr O'Connor Power (the youthful Nationalist member for Mayo), Sir Colman O'Loughlin (County Clare), Mr McCarthy Downing (County Cork), and others followed—on the whole, a by no means good selection. A far better selection might have been made from the ranks of the Home Rule party. The Irish speakers on the first night were, on the whole, much better, and consequently achieved a much greater success. But still, notwithstanding all this, and notwithstanding that the anti-Irish speakers on the second night monopolised three-fourths of the debate, the Irish case was triumphantly established, as any impartial person would admit who heard the debate as I did. The anti-Irish speakers referred to were Sir Michael Beach (the Chief Secretary for Ireland), three Ulster Orangemen, the O'Donoghue (the apostate Chieftain of the Glens), Mr Lowe, and Mr Disraeli. Any answer at all to the Irish demand was considered sufficient by these gentlemen. Each of them felt coerced to say something in reply to Mr Sullivan, but in doing so they ludicrously failed to touch Mr Sullivan's position.

But the incident of the evening I have not yet noticed. The O'Donoghue—whose treachery to and abandonment of the Irish national cause the readers of the 'Advocate' are familiar with—since he got re-elected (by a majority of three votes) for Tralee, has become in the House of Commons a more swaggering and anti-Irish Irishman than ever. On this occasion he set himself out for a bitter and venomous assault on the Home Rule movement and on its leaders. The movement he called a gross and mischievous delusion; the men who support it he called (and he was the only speaker who did so) traitors, cowards, and tricksters. He tried to raise a laugh, and he succeeded in raising a laugh at all the chief men in the Home Rule ranks. And so he sat down in good high humor. But one of the men whom he had attacked followed him—Mr O'Connor Power; and this gentleman gave the traitor such a knock-down blow that I doubt if he will ever again play the same part. The man who could most effectively have squelched him was Mr Sullivan; but he avoided Mr Sullivan, as Macbeth did the ghost of Banquo, and took right good care to come after him in the debate. Mr O'Connor Power was supplied by Mr A. M. Sullivan (who sat at his elbow) with a few extracts from the ex-patriot's speeches of former days, which extracts Mr Power proceeded to read, amidst uproarious merriment, and to the terrible confusion of The O'Donoghue. The latter felt he was hit—irretrievably injured with the House, to whose anti-Irish prejudices he had so pandered—and he accordingly attempted to break the force of the blow by hook or by crook. He rose and asked the date of the speech from which Mr Power was reading. The date was promptly given, and The O'Donoghue sat down, discomfited. He next required the name of the paper in which it appeared, "as he more than doubted its accuracy." "The 'Nation,'" said Power, at which there was an unbelieving laugh on the part of O'Donoghue and his friends. But the laugh was turned entirely the other way when Mr Power,