

for a long time the ear of the world and used all their power and influence to maintain the existing conditions, beneficial to themselves but calamitous for the country and the people at large. The Irish Party's eloquent advocacy and lucid explanations had raised the question of Irish autonomy above the level of a mere provincial dispute, and had given it a merited Imperial aspect. The sympathies of vast millions in America and Australasia had proved a great accession of strength to the cause. Opposition to the concession of representative self-government sprang from prejudice and from ignorance of Ireland's constitutional demands. Previous envoys during the past 25 years had performed excellent service by throwing light on the whole question. Detailed reference was made to previous delegates from Ireland; to the change of feeling among British Cabinet Ministers; and to the manner in which the great city democracies of England, Scotland, and Wales, stood for the extension to Ireland of her right to self-rule. The address was handed, amidst applause, to Mr. Devlin.

In the course of his reply, Mr. Devlin spoke of the delegates' mission in Australia as a triumphant success. They had been instrumental in some degree in removing some of the prejudices, misunderstandings, and misrepresentations that constituted the only opposition to Ireland's claim for the right of self-government. He expressed the hope that this beautiful and richly endowed country would give them the same impartial hearing, the same support and sympathy. That reception had been tendered to him first of all as an envoy of the Irish people, and in the second place as a member and representative of one of the most democratic parties in the world—the defenders of all great human causes, the advocates of every measure that would make for the happiness of the vast masses of the people in Great Britain. During the 25 years of its existence not a single member of the Irish Party had accepted place, power, or emolument from the British Government, and they still stood to-day the incorruptible and unpurchasable representatives of the people in the House of Commons. He thanked the Mayor and the citizens, especially those not of Irish birth or descent, for the welcome they had extended to him. A vote of thanks to the Mayor closed the proceedings.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening Mr. Devlin formally opened his campaign in New Zealand with an address in the fine Municipal Theatre. There was a large attendance. The Mayor presided, and besides him and the speaker of the evening there were on the stage the members of the reception committee (including Dean Burke), and the Rev. Fathers Murphy (Riverton), O'Neill (Winton), O'Malley (Invercargill), and Cleary (Dunedin).

The Mayor, in introducing Mr. Devlin, briefly stated the object of the delegates' visit to New Zealand. It was only occasionally that the citizens of Invercargill were privileged to listen to men connected with the Imperial Parliament, and when they did, they got a larger view of things and were proud that they belonged to the great Empire that flew the Union Jack. He promised the audience an intellectual treat in the speech of Mr. Devlin. (Applause.)

How Mr. Devlin Captivates.

Mr. Devlin's speech lasted nearly an hour and three-quarters. It was an oratorical treat of a high order. He depended not for his effects upon the tricks and studied mannerisms of the professional elocutionist—they are, in fact, conspicuously absent. The secret of his power of seizing and holding an audience resides partly in the torrential power and eloquence of his language; partly in the tremendous earnestness of the man, the strength of his convictions and his knowledge of his subject; and partly in the charm of a pleasant, kindly face and a rich, mellow, resonant and searching voice that smites at times like the blast of a trumpet and is at other times as soft and caressing as an Irish lullaby—and with just enough of Ulster in it to bind the spell. Nothing that we have yet heard on the lecturing platform could surpass in force and picturesque eloquence the unstudied but thundering periods of this gifted young Irish orator. At Invercargill Mr. Devlin was suffering from a cold and the effects of a rough sea-voyage. Yet he swarmed (so to speak) all over his audience—got a grip of its collective ear with his first sentence and held it in enthralled attention to the close. He gave them no pause—he even cut their frequent bursts of cheering in two, and (if we may use the expression) hosed and salted them with such a searching oratory as they (by general consent) had never been under before. He played upon the chords of their feelings as a skilled harper plays upon his harp; and at the end it was probably to many, as it was to us, a surprise to note that the swiftly passing minutes had run into the greater part of two

hours. Well, the orator's voice is a mighty power. And in their selection of Mr. Devlin as a delegate to these countries, the Irish Party has been singularly happy. It would be difficult to pick one who could voice the wrongs of Ireland in a way more calculated to conciliate good-will and lead opposition captive. The real power and magnetism of

Mr. Devlin's Speech.

is not to be gauged from the abridgment of it which we publish hereunder.

Mr. Devlin, who arose amidst a great outburst of applause, said he thanked the Mayor for the public spirit displayed by him—a spirit of generous fairness which he (the speaker) had enjoyed for nine months in Australia. He looked upon it as a hopeful sign that his experience in New Zealand would not be dissimilar; that he would meet here with the same intelligent appreciation of the economical, material, and sentimental reasons that were at the base of Ireland's claim for responsible government. He felt sure that he would get the support and sympathy of all the lovers of liberty in New Zealand irrespective of creed or political persuasion. He came in two capacities to New Zealand, first as an Irish envoy commissioned to plead the cause of Ireland before the people; secondly, as a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, a great democratic, liberty-loving, and justice-inspired representative in the Imperial Parliament, who were not only defenders of the rights of Ireland, but also agents and advocates of every cause of freedom. To this party might be attributed every great reform which had, during the past quarter of a century, been put on the Statute Book for the advancement of the working classes of Great Britain. During that period, out of 670 members of the House of Commons, there were only half a dozen direct representatives of the working classes. The interests of the workers were watched by the Irish Party, and to them was due the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act, eight hours day for miners, shortening of hours for railway servants, and the weekly half-holiday for women textile workers. (Applause.) Mr. Devlin expressed his admiration for New Zealand, which, he said, resembled in its picturesque beauty and fertility the land from which he came. New Zealand enjoyed the form of government which the Irish people were anxious to secure for Ireland. They asked the same rights which the people of New Zealand enjoyed—a system of

Well Ordered Government,

government of the people, by the people, for the people. (Prolonged applause.) Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Prime Minister of England, had said that good government was not self-government. That, he thought, was not only an accepted constitutional dictum, but a democratic commonplace, but in Ireland they did not demand self-government instead of good government, but self-government in place of bad government. It had been claimed, as an impeachment, that Ireland's demand for Home Rule was merely a sentiment, but if it were so he would still advocate it, if it were idealism, he would still defend it. But from the point of view of national existence, of industrial welfare, agricultural development, intellectual advance, and the spirit of enterprise that went hand in hand with greatness, he advocated Home Rule. (Applause.) There never was, in the tragic story of human wrong, or in the record of mis-government in any country in the world, a more appalling

Story of Ruin,

desolation, impoverishment, and tyranny brought on to a brave and gallant people, or disaster or failure brought to the Empire as was told in the 100 years of Irish history—a story of a century of government of the Irish people, not from the capital of Ireland, but from the capital of England. (Applause.) He reminded the audience that at one time Ireland had a Parliament of its own. It was a Protestant Parliament, in an overwhelmingly Catholic country. It was a privileged Parliament, because it was elected on a narrow and restricted franchise. It was an undemocratic Parliament, because once a member was elected he was elected for life. The Parliament, however, had one saving quality—it was an Irish Parliament, responsible to Ireland and Irishmen. During eighteen years Grattan's Parliament advanced every public and private interest. (Applause.) In 1800 that Parliament was destroyed. That Parliament was taken away from Ireland by methods that Mr. Gladstone himself had so vividly described. That great English statesman had placed it on record that there never was in the history of human perfidy a blacker transaction to darken the pages of human history than the manner in which the Irish Parliament was destroyed. At all events, whatever may have been

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