

# THE BISHOP OF AUCKLAND IN BELFAST

## RECEPTION BY IRISH NATIONALISTS

The Hon. W. Kidston, Premier of Queensland, arrived in Belfast by train on the evening of August 21, and was met at the Great Victoria Terminus by Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., and the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, Bishop of Auckland, who had arrived in the city two days before, having returned from a pleasant journey round the Antrim coast. Mr. Kidston was driven to the Linenhall, where a reception was given, attended by a large number of representative citizens.

In the course of the proceedings, Mr. Devlin expressed his pleasure at the presence amongst them that evening on a visit to Belfast of the Hon. Mr. Kidston, Premier of Queensland, and the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, the distinguished and popular Bishop of Auckland. In extending a welcome to those distinguished visitors, he had to thank them both sincerely for the warm and generous welcome they, on their part, had extended to Mr. Donovan and himself whilst in Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Kidston was not an Irishman; but, as Premier of one of the most successful and progressive of all the States of the splendid Commonwealth of Australia, his name was honored and respected throughout the English-speaking world. In the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan they had a prelate beloved by his people and regarded with affection by all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. He had performed in the ecclesiastical sphere the same great work for the large and important diocese of Auckland which Mr. Kidston had done in a secular way for Queensland. Since Dr. Lenihan came amongst them they had personal proofs of his kindness of heart, his genial disposition, and his warm love for Ireland, and all those other high qualities which had secured for him the reverence and the esteem of the Irish people of Auckland diocese. They were delighted to have him there that night, and they trusted the time would not be long until he would be amongst them again. He wished Mr. Kidston and his Lordship a pleasant stay in Belfast, and he trusted that they would carry happy memories of their visit to Ireland back to the great colonies of Australia and New Zealand.

The Hon. Mr. Kidston, in replying, said that although he had lived for many years just across the water in Scotland, this was the first opportunity he ever had of visiting Ireland. From his earliest days, however, he had taken the deepest interest in Ireland, and years ago before he went to Queensland he recollected being connected with a debating society in his native place, where he earned the name of 'the Irish member,' because of his advocacy of Home Rule, even before Mr. Gladstone had advocated that policy. He did that, he might tell them, on democratic grounds. He thought the people of Ireland, like the people of every other country, had the right to manage their own affairs. That was a good, sound democratic principle. If the people of England and Scotland liked to conduct their affairs together, and the people of Ireland wanted to manage their business separately, then, he considered, the Irish people had a perfect right in that matter. No country, on the other hand, could have the right to dominate Ireland against her will. As he had told them, that was his first visit to Ireland, but although he had only been two days in their country, he had seen ample evidence to convince him that the present state of Ireland was a conclusive argument against the present system of Government in this country. Although, as Mr. Devlin had told them, he was not an Irishman himself—he was quite satisfied to be a Scotchman—he knew Irishmen in Queensland very well, and he found them quite as capable in public affairs as Scotchmen or Englishmen. As a matter of fact, if they judged either by their private or their public conduct, they were just as capable and prosperous citizens of Queensland as any other. Why Irishmen should be prosperous and of undoubted and recognised capacity in every country, save their own, passed understanding. Ireland had gone back to a shocking extent, and, in fact, as no other country in Europe had gone back. He said the present state of Ireland was a conclusive condemnation of the system which had repressed and, to a large extent, destroyed the industrial character of the Irish people. He sincerely hoped that a better day was coming for Ireland. He had no hesitation at all in believing that self-government meant returning prosperity for Ireland. In Ireland they had had a long disheartening struggle. He knew of no instance in the history of Europe of such unwearying devotion to a great cause as had been shown by the people of Ireland in their effort to obtain self-government. He sincerely hoped the time was coming, and was not indeed far

off, when the reward of success would crown the devoted work which had been done for that cause.

### Bishop Lenihan's Address.

The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, who met with a most enthusiastic reception, said he had only one regret to express at the outset, and it was that the eloquent speeches of Mr. Devlin and the Premier had come to a conclusion. He had come there to assist, if he might say so, in doing honor to the Premier as the personal friend of Mr. Devlin. During the short time he had been in the city that friendship had extended. Mr. Devlin's friends had become his friends, and he felt that any time he came to Belfast he could always rely on a friendly and kindly welcome. Mr. Devlin and Mr. Donovan came out to Australia, and at once won their hearts. They always liked the idea of Home Rule, and, with due respect to the Premier, he might say the real reason why the New Zealanders had no desire to join the Federation of Australia was the fear that their interests might be neglected. Remembering how unjustly Ireland had been treated by England, a distant country across the sea, they were determined nothing of that kind would be done to them, and they had the fear that by the Federation with the States of Australia their liberty might be in a measure interfered with; so they proclaimed their determination to have Home Rule. He was not born in Ireland, which he considered to be a misfortune, but he was born of Irish parents, who were devoted to their land, and who trained him in the reading of Irish history. This, with the experience he had gained, made him a strong adherent of the cause Messrs. Devlin and Donovan so worthily represented. Mr. Devlin's speeches would ever remain in the memory of all who listened to him, and his personal qualities had increased the desire of the Australian people for Irish Home Rule. They grieved at his departure, and trusted that he would soon visit them again. Since he (Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan) arrived in Ireland Mr. Devlin had repaid any little attentions he might have shown him a thousand-fold, and he would bring back to New Zealand the happiest recollections of the pleasant days he had spent in Belfast. Realising the benefits of self-government in the colonies, they were anxious to see Home Rule established in Ireland, and they could not fail to admire the self-sacrifice and earnestness of the National party. Those men devoted themselves to the interest of their country, and when with their ability the highest positions might be open to them they preferred to serve the cause they loved so well. The party had earned the admiration of the world, and not one of them had ever been known to accept any position under the British Government. Though often complained at and criticised by their own countrymen, they persevered in their unselfish work, regardless of the little-mindedness of those who would not allow that they knew better how to manage their own affairs, and were still willing to devote their lives and their intellects to the high cause of Irish self-government. If he might humbly suggest it, he thought care should be taken that any little difference of opinion which occurred did not constitute the only knowledge which the people in the colonies obtained of their doings. Promptly when such things were mentioned in the papers the 'cable fiend' seized on them and spread abroad something in this tone: 'Why should we give self-government to a party who cannot manage their own affairs?' Care should be taken to have these statements promptly answered, and to give the people abroad a correct view of what was being done by the party and of what was going on. What more need he say than to express his delight at being joined with the Premier on that occasion, and honored as he had been. He would have been sorry, indeed, to miss that meeting, and he wished to join with Mr. Devlin's friends in the honor and respect they all paid him. He wished to say publicly that, when there was need for further help for the cause, let them send Mr. Devlin out to the colonies—or if Mr. Devlin was in too high or onerous a position to be spared, let them send some other member of the party out—and he promised to do even more than he had done before. He again thanked them most heartily.

An enjoyable musical programme was afterwards gone through, songs being splendidly rendered by Rev. Father Patterson (Auckland), Mr. Joseph Donnelly, solicitor; Mr. Denis A. Glasgow, and Mr. J. C. Gleeson (New Zealand), and the proceedings subsequently concluded.

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