

## Home Rule Meeting at Sydney.

ON Monday evening, June 16, what was intended to be merely a preliminary meeting to consider the project of a Home Rule movement for the purpose of rendering practical aid to the Irish Parliamentary Party was held in the vestibule of the Town Hall, Sydney. There was a crowded attendance long before the time appointed for beginning the proceedings, and when Senator O'Connor, K.C., Vice-president of the Federal Executive Council, mounted the platform, followed by a host of prominent citizens, there were almost as many people outside as inside the chamber. An agreeable feature of the gathering was that it included many ladies. For the rest, enthusiasm, genuine and unbounded enthusiasm, was the keynote of the demonstration. The high note struck by the chairman in an eloquent, powerful, common-sense appeal to the Empire for justice to Ireland was sustained right throughout the meeting by subsequent speakers. Almost every sentiment uttered on the platform carried with it an accompaniment of ringing cheers. The outcome of the meeting (says the *Freeman's Journal*) was a unanimous resolve to render material and moral aid to Ireland at this critical juncture in her history, and a beginning was made by spontaneous offers of pecuniary aid, although the appeal for money was deferred till the occasion of the mass meeting which follows in a few weeks.

Senator O'Connor was supported in the chair by a strong body of leading Irishmen. Among others, there were the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan (State Minister for Works), Hon. T. M. Slattery, M.L.C., Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., Messrs D. O'Connor, J. G. Carroll, P. E. Quinn, R. D. Meagher, A. J. Kelly, and P. J. Clara, M.A.L.A., Thomas Curran and T. B. Curran, B.L. (late members of the Irish Parliamentary Party), John Flood, Major Freehill, Dr. C. W. MacCarthy, B. Gaffney, T. J. McCabe, etc. There was also a large number of the Catholic clergy present.

The Chairman, in the course of an eloquent and patriotic speech, said: We have now in Ireland a Parliamentary Party absolutely united, under the leadership of an eloquent, wise, and experienced Parliamentarian—John Redmond. There is in the ranks of that party absolute loyalty to his leadership, because Ireland has learned from bitter experience that it is only by absolute loyalty to leadership that the cause of Home Rule can be won. As we all know, Irishman can only succeed by getting the ear of England in the English Parliament, and by getting the force of English public opinion in its aid. And now, at a time when the strain and stress of a great war leaves the English Parliament free to consider other affairs—now is the time when we in Australia, whose voice has been heard and whose aid has been sought and felt in the building up of the Empire, should be heard and felt when we seek to remove one of the plague-spots in the internal administration of the Empire. The course is clear, and the road is open for the only way by which Ireland can achieve nationality, and that is by the processes of Parliamentary and constitutional warfare. We are ready to help in that. We are ready to send that material aid which is so much wanted by the party of noble and self-sacrificing men who give up their time month after month, and year after year, in a labour which some of us know and some here, like Mr. Curran, have felt that is unflinching and self-sacrificing to a degree beyond ordinary belief. Unfortunately, perhaps, the representatives of Ireland are not drawn from that class which can support itself. They must have some material aid, and how better can we show our love for the old land, and our admiration for the work of the Irish Parliamentary Party, than by sending some of that material aid, which generous hearts have always to give, to enable them to carry on their fight consistently and continuously, and successfully? I do not wish to trench upon the province of speakers whom you will hear this evening, but I would like to say two other words. In the first place, it is in the power of Irishmen in Australia and of Irish-Australians in Australia, and of that great body of democratic and fair-minded men who wish well to Ireland, to make the great body of public opinion at this end of the Empire felt in England itself. One of your objects should be that it shall make itself felt. The other word I wish to say is this: Let us have no narrow platform here. Let us have no platform upon which Irishmen only can stand. We have all through Australia sympathising friends and enthusiastic supporters of the cause of Home Rule, not only from the feeling which lies deep down in the hearts of Irishmen—the undying aspiration for nationality—but because they realise that it is right that every man should have a voice in framing the laws by which he is governed, and that no one has a right to deprive any man of that right unless for some very good reason. In Ireland the reason has always been the other way. Why is Ireland to-day, alongside her prosperous sister island, in a condition which alternates between military occupation, coercion, and the 'letting-alone' policy? It is because English statesmen have too frequently failed to recognise that there is an undying spirit of nationality in the Irish people, which can only be satisfied by Home Rule—that kind of Home Rule which Australia has to-day. Let us help to give Home Rule to the people of Ireland, and let us, out of the abundance and generosity of our patriotism, be generous in material and moral force. Let us embrace every man who thinks with us, and let us embrace the thousands of Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, and Australians who want to see this a great and contented Empire, and feel that it can never be so, so long as Ireland remains in her present position.

At the conclusion of the chairman's address the secretary read a number of apologies from gentlemen who were unable to be present, among these being Sir William Manning, Mr. T. Waddell (Colonial Treasurer), and Mr. John Toohy, M.L.C., who was absent through illness, but sent a cheque for £25. His Grace Archbishop Kelly, who had a prior engagement, wrote in part as follows:—'The banner of Ireland upheld by a faithful and disciplined body in Westminster or College Green will rally the forces of her chil-

dren and of her friends all the world over, and the forces must go on increasing till every rightful claim for creed and country be vindicated. The triumph of Ireland will be the triumph of the United Kingdom, unless it be delayed too long and arrive too late. While I do not identify myself with any political party or political organisation, I wish your meeting the fullest measure of success, and I assure it of my profound sympathy and willing support.'

Among the speakers were Major Freehill, Rev. Father Fitzgerald, O.F.M., Messrs E. W. O'Sullivan (Minister for Works), P. E. Quinn, M.L.A., Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., Hon. T. M. Slattery, M.L.C., Mr R. D. Meagher, M.L.A., Mr D. O'Connor, M.L.A., T. B. Curran, and Dr. McCarthy.

The following resolution was passed with acclamation, and an Executive Committee appointed to give effect to it by calling a public meeting later on: 'That this meeting is of opinion that the time has arrived when an appeal should be made to the people of New South Wales to render material and moral support to the constitutional efforts of the Irish people to obtain self-government.'

The subscriptions received at the meeting amounted to £120.

A few Sundays ago the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, blessed and opened a new church at Galong. His Lordship, in the course of his sermon on the occasion, said: 'A church has to-day been blessed and opened without any appeal, direct or indirect, to the people for whose benefit it has been erected. To-day we take over, in the name of the Church, a beautiful site of two and a half acres of land with a church built thereon, a joint gift, without any lien or encumbrance whatsoever, to religion and to the Catholic people of this neighborhood, from Mr Edmond Ryan and his sister, Miss Anastasia Ryan, present occupants of the name and house of Galong. And this church, which has just been blessed and on whose altar the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has just been offered for the first time, is such a thing of beauty! In architectural design, in solidity of material and perfection of workmanship, in elegance within and without, in supply of sacred furniture, it has, for its dimensions and as a church for public worship, hardly anything equal to it—certainly nothing superior—in the diocese of Goulburn, perhaps in the whole State of New South Wales. Every requirement, so far as immediate wants are concerned, has been anticipated. Nothing is wanting. It is complete in every detail—sanctuary, sacristy, altar, stained-glass windows, Stations of the Cross, vestments of all colors required by the Rubric, Benediction service; the provision made for lighting and ventilation; those splendid statues of the Sacred Heart and of Our Blessed Lady; those handsome and comfortable pews, the confessional, the sanctuary lamp—all are supplied, solid and precious, as to material, exquisite in finish. Rich yet chaste, ornate without being gaudy, a refined and delicate taste guided both artist and workman in conceiving the plan and in executing every minutest detail in stained-glass windows, in altar, in each separate article of adornment or of use. And as no cost was spared to realise the ideal of the generous donors, so the expenses will reach, we have been told, when everything has been taken in, a grand total of not much less than \$2000. This splendid donation is in keeping with the noblest examples of generosity and faith bequeathed to us by the pioneer days—and, thank God, we have very noble examples, even in this diocese, of generosity and faith, and a regard for man's supreme interest, his spiritual and immortal destiny—handed down to us from the fine Catholic men and women of the pioneer days.'

Mr Michael O'Halloran, late of the police force, and well known in this city and Ashburton, has leased the Pier Hotel, corner of Crawford and Jetty streets, Dunedin, where he will be happy to see any of his many friends. Considerable alterations and improvements have been recently made in this old-established hostelry, and families and the public generally will find that first-class accommodation has now been provided...

**STAFFORDSHIRE WAREHOUSE**, 29 George street, Dunedin.

**THE** Best Place in town for TEA SETS is George Ritchie's Staffordshire House, 29 George street.

**IF** you want a Good DINNER SET cheap and good, Ritchie's Staffordshire House is the place.

**FOR** LAMPS and LAMPWARE go to Ritchie's Staffordshire House; the noted place for Fittings.

**FOR** all Household FURNISHINGS RITCHIE'S can't be beat.—29 George street.

**C**ROCKERY LAMPS and CUTLERY Lent on Hire.

MONUMENTS.

**BOUSKILL AND McNAB**  
SYMONDS STREET, AUCKLAND.

Have a Choice Lot of NEW MONUMENTS. Light and Dark Marble, and Red, Gray, and Dark Green Granite. Prices moderate. Our work has again been awarded the highest honors presented at the Christchurch Exhibition. Three Exhibits. First Prize for Carving; First and Second for Lead Letters. Auckland Exhibition Four First Prizes and Gold Medal.

Designs Free on application.

All kinds of Iron Fences.

Telephone 732.