

Ireland should not get that right of self-government which prevailed almost throughout the British Empire, and which at this moment was promised even to the conquered Boers. It was because of the self-government that we had enjoyed that we were proud to belong to the British Empire, and to stand by her in her time of adversity. If it was desired to win the respect and firm comradeship of the Irish people it would be best got by granting to them what had been granted to Australia—the right of governing their own people.

The resolution was carried unanimously, amid great acclamation.

Major F. B. Freehill moved that a Home Rule Fund be created for the purpose of enabling the Irish Parliamentary Party to continue the struggle for self-government for Ireland, and that subscription lists be now opened. He said that he was glad that Senator O'Connor had referred to one of those objections which were made by opponents of Home Rule—opponents, he was convinced, more from ignorance than conviction. There were fellow-citizens in our midst who had an idea that this was a movement for the separation of Ireland from England. He had always believed that the words of Henry Grattan, uttered more than 100 years ago, were true, and if they were true then they were true to-day. Grattan said: 'The Channel forbids union, the ocean forbids separation.' The Irish Home Rule question was not a question of the grievances of the past. It was a present vital question, which went to the root of the very stability of the Empire. Why did he say it was a vital question—a question of to-day? Because, if they took up the records of the statistician they would find that Ireland, when it was the home of their fathers and mothers, 50 years ago, contained more than 8,000,000 of human beings. The population had since diminished, till to-day it was only 4,000,000. Was that result a triumph of British statesmanship? Was it a thing that any man with the slightest feeling of humanity could feel proud of referring to? This question they could not regard, therefore, as one of old grievances, for it was a matter of living moment to every Irishman, and every Irishwoman, throughout the Empire, and to every Englishman and every Scotchman, too.

Sir W. P. Manning seconded the resolution, which he was sure would be received by the meeting with very generous estimation. He knew the Irish here too well to think that an appeal for such a cause as that of Irish Home Rule would ever be made in vain to them. The people of Ireland had kept the question of Home Rule alive for a long time. It was alive in the Irish heart to-day. They had never been conquered. They never would be conquered, but would strive, and strive, and strive again.

THE LIBERAL PARTY.

They would be helped by the aid given to them by men, not of their race—by men like John Morley, by able, strenuous men like Campbell-Bannerman. And they felt also that the great Liberal Party had never forsaken the cause of Home Rule. There were no recreants from the Liberal Party. Those who had left them were never true Liberals. He was an Australian Irishman, and he appealed to his fellow-Australians of Irish descent to seriously follow in the footsteps of Senator O'Connor, and thus facilitate the great and glorious work—a work which would mean the achievement of public liberty for the land of their forefathers.

Very Rev. Dean Slattery said that after the able speeches that had been delivered by his friends Sir William Manning and Mr Freehill, it was unnecessary for him to address them at any length. He was sure they were all alive to the cause so dear to their hearts—the cause of Old Ireland. 'Look back for the past 100 years' What did they find? At the beginning of the last century the Act of Union was passed, and that Act had proved itself to be a miserable failure, after being in force for over 100 years. That Act had been the ruin of the progress and commerce of Ireland. Ever since the passing of that Act they found their country governed by England, as if it were a conquered nation. She had recourse, time after time, to Coercion Acts. She never thought of granting the union which was brought about by that act of treachery passed by the villainous Castlereagh. No wonder, then, that through the century, and up to this hour, Ireland was discontented. No wonder that she was a source of weakness to England. She was a source of weakness and a scandal to England; and she would be a source of weakness and a scandal to England until her rights were obtained and her liberties granted. Let there be a reconciliation to-morrow between England and Ireland, and Ireland would be a source of great strength and power to the Empire, and he would venture to say that if England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales were united in a policy of justice and honor, he would march these people (with their friends from over the sea) against the whole united world.

On the motion of Mr John Meagher, M.L.C., it was decided that Mr John Redmond be requested to send a delegation to Australia, and that arrangements be made to hold a representative Irish Australian Convention in Sydney at a future date.

Speeches were also delivered by Messrs R. D. Meagher, T. J. McCabe, P. E. Quinn, M.L.A., and T. B. Curran.

Before the proceedings were brought to a close it was announced that a sum of £700 had been collected at the meeting in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Fund. A few of the subscriptions were as follows:—According to promise the Hon. John Toohy converted his preliminary cheque for £25 into £50. The announcement 'Mr Mark Foy, 100 guineas' was received with enthusiasm by the meeting, to whom the generosity of the brothers Foy was no new thing. Other accounts were The Hon. John Meagher, £25; Mr James Dalton (Orange), £25; Archbishop Kelly, £10; 10s; *Freeman's Journal*, £15; Dr. Mr T. J. Dalton (Sydney), £10; Mr Toohy, £10.

Cheers for John Redmond followed, and the meeting closed, as it began, with three cheers for the King.

MELBOURNE.

Fully 3000 persons were present at the Home Rule meeting held in the Hibernian Hall, Melbourne, on July 4. All classes and creeds (says the *Advocate*) were represented in that great and enthusiastic gathering of both sexes—the question of creed, and even of nationality, being apparently forgotten in the one, great, and absorbing desire to protest against the re-introduction of the Crimes' Act, and to demand for Ireland the inalienable right of every nation—self-government. A glance around that vast assemblage revealed the fact that interest in the question of Irish autonomy is not confined to men and women who had the privilege of being born in Ireland. The sons and daughters of those were there in their hundreds to demand that the same freedom to manage their own legislative affairs, as is happily enjoyed in the Australian Commonwealth, shall be given to Ireland. It would have been difficult, if not impossible, for even the most indifferent spectator of that great demonstration—palpitating as it evidently was with enthusiasm for the cause of Home Rule, and imbued with the resolve to protest against coercion—not to be powerfully moved with a feeling of genuine sympathy for so worthy and ennobling a twin cause. In proof of this, it may be said that there was not so much as a single discordant note heard from start to finish of that great meeting, which lasted for three hours.

Several apologies for non-attendance were received from prominent citizens, all of whom expressed their sympathy with the object of the meeting.

Dr. O'Donnell, who presided, read the following letter from his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne:—'I shall not be able to attend to-night, but the object of the meeting recommends itself to me very strongly. Now that the Irish Parliamentary Party are united, and all are working for the common good of Ireland, they desire both moral and material support from Irishmen the world over. Long experience has shown that no substantial concession can be obtained from the British Parliament except as the result of continued and vigorous agitation. While the British Constitution is in itself one of the highest efforts and most matured products of statesmanship, and while England is just and even generous in the dealings with other parts of the Empire, Ireland has no share in that generosity which centuries of misrule should have elicited, and but scant measure of justice to which she is strictly entitled. If England had trusted the great body of the Irish people instead of the favored few, if she had legislated for the people instead of for their oppressors, long since Ireland would have been contented, peaceful, and prosperous. Coercion laws would not have so often disgraced the Statute Book, nor would thousands of young men and women be annually flying from their native land and building up in America a tradition of hostility which is a perpetual and formidable menace to England. Hitherto only one English statesman has arisen to a just conception of what is required as a reparation of the past and a sure means of reconciliation for the future. Mr Gladstone failed in his well-intentioned effort to weld the whole Empire into one harmonious whole. But he has left behind him the solution of the political problem. The Irish Parliamentary party are following in his footsteps, and the Liberal party, with some defections, are still faithful to his principles. Time and patience and conciliation will be required before Ireland is granted what the different States in Australia have long possessed—Home Rule. Meantime, the Irish Parliamentary Party must be sustained and encouraged. This, I understand, is the object of your meeting, and towards that object I enclose a cheque for ten guineas.' The reading of his Grace's letter was punctuated by applause.

Mr H. B. Higgins, M.P., M.A., LL.B., moved the first resolution, which affirmed 'unswerving fidelity to the principle of Home Rule.' One of the most telling points in the hon. gentleman's speech was a quotation from an address delivered in Leeds (England) by the late Grand Old Man's son (Mr Herbert Gladstone), who declared that if his hearers were treated as the Irish people were by England they would become rebels.

Mr Prendergast, M.L.A., in supporting the resolution, advanced some interesting statistics showing the blighting influence of Dublin Castle rule on Ireland.

The Chief Secretary and Minister for Labor (Mr John Murray, M.L.A.) was the subject of a popular demonstration, the entire audience cheering him repeatedly. In the course of a characteristically sarcastic and humorous speech, he ridiculed the vain attempt to govern Ireland from Downing street.

The other speakers included Senators Dawson and Stewart (Queensland), McGregor (South Australia), O'Keefe (Tasmania), Mr J. B. Ronald, M.P., Rev. Dr. Rentoul, and Dr. Maloney, M.L.A.

One result of the meeting was a large accession to the ranks of the United Irish League, some hundreds of new members being received. The gathering of over 2000 persons included many ladies.

A letter from his Eminence Cardinal Moran was received at St. Mary's Cathedral the other day, in which his Eminence alludes to his return to Australia. In an interview which a representative of the *Freeman's Journal* had with the Cardinal a few days before his departure for Rome, he learnt from his Eminence that he anticipated being back in Australia by about the first week in November. The Cardinal now states, in the letter above referred to, that he will be back a little earlier. It is probable his Eminence will arrive in Sydney in October. This information will be received with no small degree of pleasure, and will silence rumors and set doubts at rest regarding his Eminence's future movements.

For Chilblains there is positive lyno remedy to approach Evan's WITCH'S OIL—an absolutely certain cure.—*.*