

audience, and he sat down amidst applause, again and again renewed. Of the other speeches it need only be said that they were worthy of the occasion and of the best traditions of French oratory. One of the most notable and interesting of the speeches was delivered by the British Ambassador (Sir Francis Bertie), who is much loved and respected in Paris. He congratulated Mr. O'Connor on being the hero of the visit, and expressed his thanks on behalf of the British Government for the reception given by France to the representatives of Ireland. Irishmen will appreciate what this little incident means in the changed relations which have come to exist between Ireland and the Empire. Afterwards the delegation proceeded to

The Hotel de Ville.

where a reception was given by the Mayor, the Prefect of the Seine, the Chief of Police, and other high officials of the municipality of Paris, in honor of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Mayor of Clonmel, and the delegation generally. A number of speeches of welcome were delivered, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin replied in a speech very felicitously worded, and which, when translated into French by the eloquent and versatile M. Franklin-Bouillon, was loudly applauded. A very happy and eloquent little speech was delivered in English by Mr. Tom Condon, M.P., Mayor of Clonmel, who was a great favorite everywhere. The Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Mayor of Clonmel wore their civic robes and chains of office. After the speeches the members of the delegation were honored very specially by being requested to write their names in the famous 'Book of Gold' of Paris, in which are recorded all the most important events in the history of the municipality. Mr. T. P. O'Connor made another speech in French, and then the delegates were conducted over the building, which is of great magnificence, having cost a sum equal to over two million pounds English money. In the basement women and girls were employed making up pillows for the wounded at the front and in the hospitals, and men were engaged packing pipes and tobacco and cigarettes for the men in the trenches. Some members of the delegation were presented with pipes as souvenirs. Outside the Hotel de Ville an immense crowd had collected, and the delegates were cheered again and again, and greeted with cries of 'Vivent les Irlandais' and 'Vivent nos Aides,' in reply to which the delegates called for cheers for France. There was some little time to spare after leaving the Hotel de Ville, and some of the delegates took advantage of it to take a motor run round the principal places of interest. Amongst other places they visited

The Irish Church in Paris.

where they were warmly welcomed by the Fathers at Notre Dame. The Lord Mayor of Dublin was enthusiastically greeted by some of the clergy, the very names of Dublin and Ireland visibly affecting them with emotion. On Saturday night the delegates entertained MM. Franklin-Bouillon and Leygues to dinner at the Hotel Crillon. There was also present the Paris representative of the *Manchester Guardian*. 'T.P.' presided, and the proceedings were most interesting. Speeches were delivered by 'T.P.' now in French and then in English, and by M. Franklin-Bouillon, who is a close rival to 'T.P.' in his mastery of language and his felicity of speech and charm and simplicity of manner. Mr. Devlin delivered a speech of eloquence and power. Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., spoke eloquently in French, and the Lord Mayor of Dublin was very happy indeed in a little speech which was quite extempore. Messrs. O'Connor, Devlin, and the other speakers paid tribute to the kindness and zeal of MM. Franklin-Bouillon and Leygues, who gracefully responded. Another very happy speech was made by Father McMullen, who became a warm favorite with everybody. This wound up the series of meetings and engagements.

Departure from Paris.

On Sunday morning, at 7.30, the delegates attended a special Mass, celebrated by Father McMullen at the Madeleine, and shortly afterwards they left Paris by the Nord train. At the station MM. Franklin-Bouillon and Leygues, and many other deputies and

prominent people, assembled to bid them 'au revoir' and 'bon voyage,' and as the train shortly steamed out of the station, all the officials stood to the salute, and cheers were given for Ireland and for France. The journey back to Boulogne was made in good time through a beautiful and most interesting country. At Boulogne Mr. Cox, the courteous and accomplished official who represents Scotland Yard, made the matter of passports very easy for us, as did the French and English officials generally, and we made a splendid journey across the Channel to Folkestone, and thence to Victoria Station, where we arrived at about nine o'clock on Sunday night. These hurried notes were only made to string together in some connected way the series of events of which the delegation was the occasion. The importance of the delegation and its reception will grow with time. The whole thing must become a great historic memory and landmark for Ireland, for France, aye, and for Great Britain and the world. Ireland's title to nationhood can no longer be questioned. France, which was the co-liberator of America, and the first to recognise American Independence, has been the first to acclaim Ireland a self-governed nation within the British Empire. That is a great fact which cannot be altered or gainsaid. Again Catholic France and Catholic Ireland have been joined once more by a common peril and a common sorrow in bonds of affection and imperishable love. The Celtic race are prouder than ever they were because of the delegation, and these races stand for liberty, civilisation, religion, and progress in the best sense of the terms. The delegation has made these things clear to the world. That is its justification now, and will be its glory in the future.

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