

## SIR J. G. WARD ON HOME RULE.

A cable message states that Sir J. G. Ward was present and spoke at the St. Patrick's Day dinner in London. He eulogised Mr. Redmond's wise and courageous leadership, and emphasised the fact that the overseas Premiers at the last two Imperial Conferences, wherever they were born and whatever their respective creeds, were strenuous supporters of Home Rule for Ireland. Sir Joseph believed that Irishmen at Home were equally as loyal as those overseas. Incidentally he remarked that every Irishman in New Zealand willingly bore his share of the cost of the gift Dreadnought. He attributed the remarkable success of Irishmen in the overseas Dominions to the fact that they were trusted and that the insult to their manhood was not ever before them. It would be a great thing if Britain gained the goodwill of 25,000,000 Irishmen outside of Ireland. The needs of the Empire required that the festering sore near the heart should be healed immediately. It was a thousand pities that the Ulstermen differed, but the majority had rights equally with the minority. Many Ulstermen in New Zealand were living in amity with other Irishmen. If there was any interference with the Ulstermen's liberty or religion the British Government, which gave self-government, would take it away, and it would be backed by public opinion over the whole world.

Mr. Redmond, who presided, proposed the toast of Ireland as a nation. He said the opposition to Home Rule was dead. Universal regret was expressed at the fact that the Parliament Act was delayed in passing.

Mr. Holman denied that self-government was a big blot on the Englishmen's reputation for honesty and fair play. The history of the self-governing colonies had shown that they were ready to support the Empire every time that help was needed. It was wrong that a boon should be ruthlessly withheld in the very heart of the Empire. He concluded by hailing Mr. Redmond as the true leader of self-government.

## A RECORD ATTENDANCE.

The record attendance of the Irish Party throughout the 233 divisions taken on the Home Rule Bill is an example, which is scarcely needed, of the high spirit of loyalty and discipline by which they are animated (says the *Glasgow Observer*). Mr. John E. Redmond, the leader of the Party, did not miss a single division, an unparalleled record. Honored place with him is taken by Mr. Thos. Scalan, the able and trusted member for North Sligo, and Mr. Willie Doris. Mr. W. J. Duffy and Mr. J. P. Hayden only missed one division, and the record of the Party as a whole is one of enduring credit. It is interesting to contrast with this the attendances of the eight All-for-Ireland members. Mr. Wm. O'Brien was absent from 181 divisions, and voted against the Government (and, of course, against the Home Rule Bill), in three divisions. Mr. Maurice Healy was absent from 167 divisions; Mr. D. D. Sheehan from 189 divisions; Mr. Gilhooly from 125; Mr. Guiney from 88; Mr. J. Walsh from 147; and Mr. Crean from 83; and those of them who were present followed their leader and voted against the Government three times. The comparison is instructive.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in a special cable message to the *Chicago Tribune* says:—

The Third Reading of the Home Rule Bill went off more triumphantly than the most sanguine had expected. There was a majority in the Ministerial coalition of 110, and the largest majority anticipated was between 90 and 100. When the majority of 110 was read the Liberals, Laborites, and Irish almost lost their heads over the overwhelming victory. Scene followed scene. Members rose to their feet waving handkerchiefs, and the low rumble of the cheering crowd outside the House penetrated to the Chamber. The comparison of this huge majority with the numbers in previous Bills heightened the magnificence of the present victory. The Bill in 1886 was rejected by 30 majority. The Bill in 1893 was carried by only 34. The majority even on this third Bill had only a majority of 94 at first and 100 on the Second Reading.

## People We Hear About

The Duchess of Norfolk, in spite of her great wealth and position, is a believer in simplicity, and practises it (says a London daily). Her entertainments, though in every way successful, are never occasions for lavish decorations or needless expense.

In a special article, 'America's Three Cardinals,' the *New York Herald* says of his Eminence Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston:—'Cardinal O'Connell, the third of America's Cardinals, although a man of astonishing versatility, a lover and patron of all the arts, an orator of distinction, and an accomplished musician, is fitted to shine in the most cultivated society, but he has devoted a very large part of his time since his elevation to his present office to the study of such social questions as particularly affect the poor. He is extremely charitable and gives largely of his own income to those in need. Unflagging energy in the interest of the Church and of all its children characterises the Cardinal's daily life.'

Mr. T. C. Brennan, a Melbourne barrister, who took a prominent part in the establishment of the Australian Catholic Federation, who contested the Warrenheip seat, just outside Ballarat, in the Liberal interest recently, is a brother of Mr. Frank Brennan, Labor M.H.R. for Batman. It is not often (remarks the *Southern Cross*) that one finds brothers in opposite political camps. Mr. Thos. Brennan is also a journalist, and at the present time is editor of the *Melbourne Advocate*. He comes of a family which seems naturally to turn to law and journalism. Mr. W. Brennan is on the Parliamentary staff of the *Melbourne Argus*, and Mr. H. P. Brennan is sub-editor of the *Weekly Times*, Melbourne, and one sister, Miss Anna Brennan, is a barrister practising in the Melbourne Courts.

The part taken by Lord Dunraven in the Home Rule debate in the House of Lords and his tribute to the tolerance of Catholics, recall memories of his father as a convert to the Church. Edwin, third Earl of Dunraven, who sat as Lord Adare in the House of Commons from 1837 to 1851, belonged to that group of friends and neighbors, the De Veres, of Curragh Chase, Monsell, of Tervoe (afterwards Lord Emily), and Mr. Heffernan Considine, of Derk, whom County Limerick contributed to the ranks of Rome's recruits. His family, though Protestant for generations, were distinguished for a liberality all too rare in their time and place; and it was the first Earl who restored the Trinitarian, or White Abbey, of Adare to Catholics—its rightful possessors—as a parish church. Especially from the time of his conversion, he took a keen interest in the progress of religious education in Ireland. He brought the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy to Adare, while his benefactions to the poor are still gratefully remembered by the country side.

When a boy is descended at one and the same time from a Girondin of Nantes who only just escaped the guillotine at the end of the Terror, from an Irishman who was one of Napoleon's colonels, and from Dr. Priestly, the eminent Unitarian divine and discoverer of oxygen; when he is born by chance on French soil, but passes his childhood on the great slope of the South Down; when he is educated at Edgbaston under Cardinal Newman; when he serves his apprenticeship to journalism under W. T. Stead, and then rushes off and serves his apprenticeship to arms in an artillery barrack full of French conscripts, and when, after a hasty rush across America and back again and some mathematical studies in Paris, he turns up at Balliol College, Oxford, as an undergraduate and takes the University History Scholarship and a double first in history, it is probable that one who has had so variegated a youth will have passed through some interesting experiences. And if he happens to possess a specific talent for self-expression, what he says or writes is pretty certain to be worth hearing or reading. Fresh from such a combination of environments, Hilaire Belloc appeared upon the literary horizon of London some ten or twelve years ago.

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