

unanimous in the hope that these communities will continue on the same lines as at present, and that those who have already given themselves to God in what they believed to be His Church may, now they have found the way into the true home of their souls, continue to serve Him with even greater fervor and fidelity. Meanwhile our hearts go out to those to whom these conversions are at present a source of sorrow, bewilderment, and dismay. There are many searchings of heart in England now, and we can but respect their grief, and pray that Almighty God, in His great mercy, may turn it into joy. May it be far from any of us to indulge in vulgar elation over an event which, while it brings consolation to those who love Jerusalem, is yet a source of such bitter grief to many souls of good will. Some of the letters that have come to Caldey within the last few days have indeed been abusive and cruel, but the great majority have been heartrending. If the Angel of the Lord has descended to move the waters, we can but pray that his gracious ministry may bring peace and healing to many who seek to do the Will of God, and as yet know not where to find it.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN LONDON

IRISH NATIONAL BANQUET

SIR JOSEPH WARD'S SPEECH

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., presided on Monday, March 17, over the Irish National Banquet in London in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

The gathering, which was held at the Hotel Cecil, was exceptionally large, and the Grand Hall was filled to overflowing, tables having to be provided for the guests in the adjoining rooms. The company included Mrs. Redmond, Sir Joseph Ward (ex-Premier of New Zealand), Lady Ward, Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Hon. Mr. O'Loughlan (Speaker of the South Australian Parliament), Mr. H. O. Holman (Attorney-General for New South Wales), Mr. Martin Kennedy (New Zealand), Mr. Thomas Lough, M.P., Captain the Hon. Fitzroy Hemyhill, Mr. Swift MacNeill, M.P., Mr. M. J. Murphy, M.P., Mr. Molloy (ex-Mayor of Perth, West Australia), Mr. J. J. O'Shee, M.P., Mr. Clement Shorter, Mr. J. MacVeagh, M.P., etc.

A cablegram was read from the United Irish League of America as follows:—'America joins with you and London Irishmen celebrating National Festival. Another remittance ten thousand dollars gone to-day. God Save Ireland.'

On rising to propose 'Ireland a Nation,' Mr. John Redmond had an ovation. He said it had been customary with them at those great gatherings for many years past to utilise the opportunity for taking stock of the National movement, and for giving expression to their hopes for the immediate future. Last year they were truthfully able to boast of the great and signal advance of their movement, and were able to anticipate a still greater advance in the immediate future. The year which had passed since then had been a year of steady and uninterrupted advance, and had witnessed, he believed he could truthfully say, the realisation of every one of the confident hopes and predictions for the immediate future to which they then gave expression. Speaking last year, he took upon himself the heavy responsibility of making

A Political Prophecy.

He said then he believed that the Home Rule Bill would be a great measure, and would be passed by the House of Commons by a majority of over one hundred, that the Bill would solidify and enthuse the entire Liberal Party and would make for real union and strengthen the permanent loyalty in the Empire, that it would receive the unanimous acceptance of the Irish Nationalist Party, the Nationalist Convention, and

the Irish Party throughout the world—quite as enthusiastic an acceptance as was accorded to Mr. Gladstone's Bills of 1886 and 1893. 'To-night I claim,' continued Mr. Redmond, 'that every word of what was said there has been verified by facts. The Home Rule Bill holds the field. It is admittedly the most popular of all measures in the Democratic Party in this country. It has behind it the devoted and unbroken support of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons; and every effort to galvanise again into life the old bitter

Opposition to Home Rule

in this country has failed. The opposition to Home Rule in Great Britain to-day is dead, and, in my judgment, the universal feeling is one of impatience that under the Parliament Bill the House of Lords has still the power so long to delay the passing of that measure into law. But we have this consolation: we know that the sands are rapidly running through the glass. We Irish men and women have to possess our souls in patience for a few short months more, and the automatic process—for that is all it means now—will have run its course, and Home Rule will be the law of the land. It will be the law of the land with the goodwill and sympathy of the whole Empire. At this board to-night there are sitting some of the most distinguished statesmen of all the great colonial dependencies of the Empire. The Dominion of New Zealand is represented here by Sir Joseph Ward, for many years its Prime Minister. The Commonwealth of Australia is represented here by the Speaker of one of its Parliaments; and by other distinguished Australians from other portions of the Commonwealth. Canada is represented by a man in thorough accord with our cause. The whole Empire, on which, we are told, the sun never sets, is an Empire where the sun never sets upon sympathy and goodwill to Ireland.' And what was true of the Empire was true of the nations of the world. Mr. Bryan,

The Head of the United States Cabinet,

had declared in a speech reported in all the newspapers that day, that humanity owed a debt to Ireland for being the means of ending once and for all the hereditary principle in the Government of the British Empire. And he further expressed his delight that before two years—he might have said fourteen months—had passed, the Irish people in every quarter of the habitable globe would be able to rejoice upon the re-establishment of freedom upon Irish soil. That was

The Centenary of the Birth of Isaac Butt,

who became the Apostle of Irish Liberty when all their ranks were thinned and broken. It was in 1870 that he founded the present Home Rule movement; and, though Butt disappeared after years of magnificent labor and eloquence and self-sacrifice, those to whom he left the banner emblazoned with Home Rule had still carried it on; and they were about to plant it once more, as he foretold, over the portals of a free Parliament. Butt substituted a demand for Home Rule for the demand for Repeal; and that demand had never varied from that day to this. Butt was a great link in the chain; for, though Butt's movement would have been impossible were it not for the movement of O'Connell, the movement of Parnell would have been impossible but for that of Butt.

'To-day, in his centenary year,' he concluded, 'and in the hour of triumph for a movement he founded, let us in common gratitude turn to his memory. Though we have heard little of Isaac Butt of recent years, I believe I speak the sentiments of those who knew him and loved him as I did as a boy, and of those of the younger generation who have only read about him, when I say that his name will occupy a niche of imperishable honor for all time in the hearts of an emancipated Irish people. With that hallowed memory in our hearts, and with the light of victory actually shining upon our cause, I ask you to rise and drink with me the toast of "Ireland a nation."'

Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., responding to the toast of 'The Irish Parliamentary Party,' proposed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, said when Ireland had her own

Wm. R. Kells

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