

DUNEDIN : FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1883.

THE MESSRS. REDMOND IN DUNEDIN.

THE arrival of Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., and Mr. J. W. Walshe in Dunedin took place on Saturday evening. The reception given to them will be found reported in another column. Mr. J. E. Redmond had been detained in Timaru, where with a true Irish spirit his fellow-countrymen had insisted on his leaving the train for the purpose of addressing them, so that it was impossible for him to reach Dunedin before the arrival of the Christchurch express, at 7.35 p.m. on Monday. The meeting at the Queen's Theatre had to be postponed until half-past eight. The train was fortunately well up to time, and Mr. Redmond, who had been accompanied from Oamaru by the Ven. Archdeacon Coleman, was able to keep his appointment punctually. The theatre was filled with people, who gave an enthusiastic reception to the delegates on their appearance upon the platform, and testified their approval through the course of the addresses by loud and hearty applause.

Mr. J. B. CALLAN filled the chair, and the following gentlemen took their places on the stage:—The Ven. Archdeacon Coleman, the Rev. Father O'Malley, S.J. [the Rev. Fathers Walsh and Lynch being present as ardent supporters of the delegates and their cause in another portion of the house], the Rev. Brothers Bodkin, Egan, and Dowdall Messrs. J. Carroll, F. and M. Meenan, N. Smith, J. P. Armstrong, Morkane, Keligher, N. Moloney, J. F. Perrin, J. M. Malagan, and several others.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that as he had undertaken to introduce Mr. Redmond to the audience, and as he had no wish to trespass upon their time or patience (though he would no doubt be expected to say a few words with reference to the discussions of various kinds that his advent there had excited), he would merely state the reason why, when he was asked to preside there that night, he had willingly and without hesitation acceded to the request of the promoters of the meeting (applause). He did so because, having read the addresses of the distinguished member for New Ross delivered in this Colony and the other Colonies of Australia, he felt persuaded that the policy they advocated was a just one, and that it had been advocated in a fair, reasonable and temperate manner. Indeed, it was difficult to conceive how anything in those addresses could, as he had been urged, set class against class, and he thought he had a right to say, since remarks of that kind reflected, to a certain extent, upon the gentlemen who had taken a prominent part in receiving Mr. Redmond here and had been active in promoting that meeting, that he (the chairman) would be the last man to receive any man, or body of men, who had such an object in view. He would boldly state that the tendency of such newspaper comments as he referred to was to bring about the very state of things they professed such a horror at seeing introduced (cheers). What Mr. Redmond asked for was a fair hearing; he desired the fullest publicity for what he said; and he courted unsparring criticism for his utterances (hear, hear.) If report belied not the lecturer he believed they had a great intellectual treat in store for them, for in introducing Mr. Redmond he was not introducing a vulgar and illiterate adventurer and stirrer-up of sedition, but a gentleman of high culture and refined breeding engaged in a constitutional struggle (loud cheers.) He begged leave to introduce the lecturer.

MR. REDMOND, who on rising, was received with immense cheering and prolonged applause, said:—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen; the subject upon which I am about to speak forms the first portion of the programme of the Irish National League. It is a subject which ought to prove of general interest, because it has its attractions, not only for those who, like myself, hope soon to see Ireland transformed into a self-governed nation (loud cheers), but also for those who, without sympathising with what they understand as Home Rule, are yet anxious that the present condition of Irish poverty, and misery, and discontent should be changed, and are willing to consider calmly, in the light of history and philosophy, any scheme towards that end that may be proposed by responsible politicians. This question of Irish self-government is the one above all others which holds out most inducements to an Irish speaker to rely upon appeals to the passions and imagination of an Irish audience. To-night I promise to make no such appeal, but to rely alone on the stern logic of reason, and precedent and argument—to look on impartially at both sides of the question, to weigh the argument both for and against, and to see whether, after all, the idea of self-government has not a basis in logic and common sense. What do we mean by Home Rule? Well, sir, by Home Rule we mean the restoration to Ireland of Representative Government, and by that we mean government in accordance with the constitutionally expressed will of the majority of those governed, or in other words, government by ministers constitutionally responsible to those they govern (hear). By Home Rule for Ireland we mean that Ireland, in all her internal affairs, shall be governed by an Irish Parliament consisting of the Sovereign and the Lords and Commons of Ireland, while at the same time all Imperial matters, and the general interests of the Empire, shall continue to be governed by the Imperial Parliament as at present constituted (hear, hear, and applause.) The idea at the bottom of the proposal is the desirability of finding a middle course between separation on the one hand and over-centralisation on the other. We believe it is undesirable that two countries so closely connected geographically and socially be entirely severed. No, it is no dismemberment of the Empire we seek—an Empire which we Irish-

men, let it be remembered, have had our share in building up (loud applause). On the other hand it is equally undesirable that the people of one country should persist in ruling that of another country, in whose feelings and affections, opinions and prejudices, they have no sympathy, and whose wants, interests, and aspirations, they professedly cannot understand. Such a system of Government tends to destroy all national life and every vestige of public spirit. We propose a middle course. We say to England: Retain every guarantee for the integrity of the Empire, but give up a task you have proved yourself unequal to, and incompetent satisfactorily to fulfil (hear, hear). Let both nations agree to defend that Empire, the common heritage of us all, ay, even against all the world up in arms against us (loud cheers and applause). But let England give up once and for all the absurd and impossible task of ruling the internal affairs of Ireland. Now, ladies and gentlemen, that is what we mean by Home Rule. But I can fancy some of our opponents saying this is only a cursory definition of a general principle.—What of the details? I might fairly answer by saying that as soon as some agreement has been come to on the general principle, the details could then fairly be left for the united wisdom of the English, Scotch and Irish members of the Imperial Parliament. It is confusing, indeed, sir, it is irregular, to discuss details until the principles are established, though I am willing to admit that it is not unreasonable that our opponents should wish for some suggestions or information regarding the means by which we propose federation should be attained. Mr. Isaac Butt has left on record his suggestions as to this. Sir, Mr. Butt says, "First, as to the Crown; it is not proposed to affect its prerogatives at all; the only change would be that, in exclusively Irish matters, it would be guided by the advice of an Irish Parliament and an Irish Ministry. In all other affairs it would continue, as at present, to be guided by the advice of the Imperial Legislature. The Imperial Parliament would have the same power over all Imperial affairs just as if no Irish Parliament existed. Its jurisdiction would include every international transaction, all relations with foreign States, all questions of peace and war, the Government of the Colonies, the army, navy, and all that relates to the defence and stability of the Empire; control of the Imperial Customs and general trade regulations; control of expenditure and supplies for all Imperial purposes; power to levy general taxation for such purposes; charge of the public debt and the Imperial Civil List, and Sovereign Power within the limits of its attributions over individual citizens of both countries. But it should be settled beforehand in what proportion Ireland should contribute to such expenditure; with what share of the public debt she is fairly chargeable; what part of the Imperial civil list she should pay; and taxation should be adjusted, not only as to amount, but as to mode, in such a manner that its burden would be equitably distributed throughout every part of the United Kingdom. Of course Ireland would continue to be represented in the Imperial Parliament on Imperial questions, but on these only. For all Imperial purposes the two countries would continue to be a United Kingdom, and to constitute in the face of these nations one Imperial State. As to the Irish Parliament, it would have supreme control over the internal affairs of Ireland, just as if an Imperial Parliament existed. Its jurisdiction would include every exclusively Irish interest—education, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, public works, railways, courts of justice, magistracy, public post-office, corporation, grand juries, and every other detail of Irish business and Irish national life. . . . It would be composed of the Sovereign, Lords, and Commons of Ireland. The sovereignty of both kingdoms would continue and would be declared to be indissolubly united. . . . In respect of all exclusively Irish interests one Irish Parliament, so constituted, would rank, act, and rule as the parliament of an independent nation." Sir, lest anybody should accuse me of quoting the opinions of Mr. Butt and not the opinions of Mr. Parnell, who is supposed (and erroneously so) to hold more extreme views than Mr. Butt, I will read from the account of an interview which recently took place in Paris between Mr. Parnell and a French journalist. Asked as to the remedy for Irish distress, Mr. Parnell said:—"There is but one remedy: Home Rule—Autonomy. We wish to enjoy the rights belonging to us as other subjects of the United Kingdom. We are tired of the position of Pariah. In my soul and conscience I believe we shall win, and within a reasonable time. We want a Parliament of our own—a Government of our own, with a natural result—liberty. You will better understand me when I say that we should be assimilated to a state of things that exists in Canada or the Isle of Man," and he might have added New Zealand (hear, hear, and applause). We would not cease to be subjects of the United Kingdom. Her Queen would be our Queen. She would be the link that would attach Ireland to Great Britain. We would consent even to be governed by a Viceroy, provided there were no exceptional laws, and that the Viceroy had no more rights, no more arbitrary powers over us, than Queen Victoria has over her English or Scotch subjects (cheers). Political peace will never be obtained until the day when we are treated, if not as a nation, at least as a free Colony" (loud applause). That is what we mean by Home Rule both in principle and in detail. This proposal is neither vague nor unintelligible; it is clear, precise, and abundant in detail (hear, hear). It is not a proposal for separation, for one of its essential conditions is the preservation of union. It is a proposal for a Federal Union. Separation is one thing, Federal Union is another; and if I am to discuss this with my opponents, they