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became their aim. They will prosecute it to its legitimate goal, and Ireland will come in for its share of advancement. Probably nothing of late years has more alarmed free men in Great Britain than the encouragement Lord Salisbury, as Premier of England, held out to Ulster to revolt against the laws of the Empire in case Home Rule was granted to Ireland. Speeches of that kind, made in passionate haste, are not forgotten as to their significance by intelligent people. They mean simply that Lord Salisbury, as far as he binds his party, is committed to go outside the law to punish the aspirations for freedom of the British people. They mean that he considers himself competent to decide the bounds of the freedom of the British people. Preposterous proposition! Pregnant in its meaning, most pernicious in its potentialities. Outside of England there are forces in action rendering the concession of Home Rule not only politic, but necessary. Public opinion is now an immense factor. The whole educated world—such part of it, at least, as is without bias—is with Ireland in her demand. The politics of America is so enormously disturbed by this question that America, with all her force, political and moral, insists on the concession. I had an important conversation with Mr Dana of the *New York Sun* on this subject. What is the cause of the antipathy of your public men to England? Is it that England has taken the whole of your maritime carrying business?—No. The Cunard Company pays a dividend of 5 per cent. to its shareholders. We can earn at least 8 on our capital. The rates of freight are very low. We could not carry our own freight as cheaply.—Is it so and so, or so and so?—No. What is it then? Mr Dana finally replied: We are determined England shall take her foot off the neck of Ireland! I said—Quite so. That is, the Irish question disturbs the whole of your domestic politics. You have entered into a compact with the Irish people that once the Home Rule question is settled, they shall cease their agitation about Ireland, and become incorporated with the American people, and you know they mean to observe that compact. You know that there exist no foreign politics outside that question for you, and you mean to harass England into its settlement, on every occasion and by every means in your power. He did not deny it. He knew it was true, and I knew it was true. It was the policy of Mr Blaine on behalf of the Republicans and of the Democrats in general. The Home Rule question in America crops up on all occasions, and it is the same in a lesser degree in all English-speaking races. All Continental countries for ever sneer at England on account of her treatment of the sister isle. What did Russia reply recently to a protest from England on the persecution of the Jews? Practically—'Shut up. Consider your disgraceful persecution of your fellow-citizens, the Irish.' England is pretty thick-skinned, pretty long-winded in her insensate wilfulness, but she cannot for ever resist such pressure from within and without, especially as she is beginning to realise that she will be blessed in the fruition of her repentance,—more than even the Irish will be benefited,—for her trade, wealth, and security must be enhanced by this act of tardy justice. These are the motives which influence nations. For, whatever idealists may think, the lowest commercial selfishness, tempered by occasional waves of enthusiasm, rules modern civilisation, and Great Britain, so far from being the exception, has led in the van, and is likely to continue there as long as she combines with high administrative talent a strict attention to the social reforms necessary within her own territory. And now, what shall I say as to the conduct of Ireland in this constitutional struggle? Cheered in her path by the intellectual sympathy of all civilised Europe from the period antecedent to Catholic Emancipation to this hour, she has exhibited, under the bitterest provocation, a moderation unparalleled in history. From out the bosom of an uneducated peasantry, she has produced numberless men of energy and genius, hordes of artisans and labourers who have made every path of industry smile, generations of peoples who

shall call her blessed with increasing enthusiasm, as the knowledge of her services to freedom is noised abroad.—The address was frequently applauded during its delivery, and the Hon Dr Grace sat down amidst a storm of applause, which lasted for some time.—Mr J. O'Dea, on moving a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for his address, said that this was not the first occasion on which the hon gentleman had come forward to the assistance of the Home Rule cause. Some fifteen months ago, when the freedom of Ireland hung in the balance, and when many Home Rulers both at Home and in America were lukewarm in their support of it, Dr Grace took his stand fearlessly and independently on the side of justice and freedom. The services rendered by the chairman to the cause of Ireland were great, and for such he deserved the gratitude of the Irish people (applause).—After the concert part of the programme, the floor was cleared for dancing, which was indulged in for a couple of hours to the strains of Minifie's string band. The attractions of the evening was a well-executed eight-handed Irish reel, which was a source of much interest to the audience, many of whom had never seen any such performance before. The general arrangements were in the hands of a committee consisting of Messrs J. P. M'Alister, W. F. Healey, P. P. Fleming, J. Coogan, B. Larkin, J. O'Dea, P. Moroney, and D. B. Lawlor, who were most successful in their efforts.

The garden fair on behalf of St Joseph's Orphanage, concerning which I had a word or two to say last week, was held on Wednesday, at Father Lane's grounds, at the Lower Hutt. The weather in the morning was lowering, but towards midday the clouds cleared away, and so came out in all his power and splendour, and thereby dispelled any further anxiety as to the prospects, either by the promoters or their patrons. The attendance, considering everything, was very good, and although there was no regular programme of sports, still those present apparently enjoyed themselves very much. A number of stalls were erected on the grounds for the sale of goods of a useful and fancy character. The stall-holders were—Mrs MacDonald (refreshment stall), Mrs O'Meara, and Misses Sheridan, MacManaway, O'Connor, Wright and Neville. A very energetic business was done during the day, and woe betide the unhappy wight who had forgotten his purse, and loved filthy lucre so much that he could resist the fair, but very persevering, pleas on behalf of the orphans. The Mariat Brothers' school band, under the conductorship of Mr Trowell, made their first bow to the public on the occasion, and right creditable was it as a first performance, reflecting alike credit on the bandmaster and on the musicians, who, it is hoped will be led by this success to still persevere in the same path. There were various sports got up for the amusement of the juniors present, which were productive not alone of fun to the participants, but also to their elders as they looked on. The sports were under the direction of Messrs Truman and Costall, whilst an Aunt Sally, under Messrs Dealy and Davis was well patronised. The following are the result of the races:—Boy's Race—Emeny, 1; Foley, 2. Ditto—C. Leydon, 1; J. A. Myers, 2. Girl's Race—Nellie Outtrim, 1; May Kuchen, 2. Hack Race (boys)—Foley, 1; Emeny, 2. Ditto—Madden, 1; Apps, 2. Three-legged Race—Emany and Fitzmaurice 1. Girl's Race—T. Gardner, 1; Nellie Outtrim, 2. Little Girls' Race—Mollie Davis, 1; Nellie Cottrell, 2. Ditto—Nellie Cadigan, 1; Agnes White, 2. Band Race—W. Brady, 1; D. Maginnity, 2. Band Hack Race—Madden, 1; Maginnity, 2. Band Race—T. McCarthy, 1; J. Cadigan, 2. Ditto—Doyle, 1; McDonald, 2. An energetic committee had made very satisfactory arrangements, which were carried out in a very satisfactory manner, and they are to be congratulated on the result of their endeavours, to benefit so good a cause.

MR F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale price—Oats: 1s 6d to 1s 9d (bags extra), demand easier. Wheat (easier): milling, 3s 0d to 3s 6d; fowls', 2s 0d to 2s 6d, sacks included. Oatmeal: Market, full supply—£1 10s 0d to £2 15s 0d; hay, oaten, £3 0s; ryegrass, £3. Bran, £3 0s. Potatoes, £3 10s. Potatoes, kidneys, unsaleable; derwents, £1 0s to £1 7s 6d; new potatoes, kidneys, local, 2d; Auckland, 1d per lb. Flour: roller, £9 0s to £9 15s; stone, value nominal, £8 15s to £9 10s. Fresh butter, 7d to 9d; salt, prime, 8d. Eggs, 7d. Oatmeal, £10 0s in 25lbs; bulk, £9 10s.