

# THE ENGLISH EDUCATION BILL

## GREAT CATHOLIC DÉMONSTRATION

The meeting of protest against the Education Bill by the Catholics of London on Saturday evening, May 5, at the Albert Hall, was one of the most remarkable demonstrations seen in the English metropolis for many years. It was an enormous gathering. Eleven thousand people found their way into the enormous hall, while thirty thousand more patiently took up positions outside and were addressed in the form of numerous overflow meetings by several speakers. The doors of the hall were thrown open at seven o'clock, and in less than half an hour every available inch of space was occupied. Close upon one hundred and fifty districts were represented, and the applications for tickets to the hall alone were very many times greater than its accommodative capacity. The character and dimensions of the demonstration showed clearly and emphatically that the hearts of the Catholic people of London are deeply stirred by the proposals in the new Education Bill. Nothing but a motive of supreme moment could have brought together such a wonderful gathering of people, many of whom could but ill afford the trouble and expense—always a matter of very considerable importance to the poorer classes in a city like London—of journeying from remote and distant parts to the place of meeting. The whole proceedings, organised as it had been on a gigantic scale, was a grand success. When the hall was lit up shortly before the proceedings began, the spectacle of the immense auditorium, the tiers of balconies and boxes and galleries crowded with many thousands of people was truly wonderful, but it was not until that vast gathering

### Broke Forth in Swelling Chorus

in the hymn to the Holy Ghost, 'Holy Spirit of Light,' and again in 'Hail, Queen of Heaven,' and 'Faith of Our Fathers,' that the real mightiness and grandeur of the occasion became truly manifest. Equally impressive, if indeed not more so, was the spectacle outside the hall as contingent after contingent arrived to swell the number of those gathered there.

The entrance into the hall of the Archbishop of Westminster was heralded by a burst of enthusiastic cheering. After him came the English Bishops in their purple robes, amongst them the venerable Archbishop Bagshawe, and the Bishop of Aberdeen, who had travelled all the night before from the North of Scotland to act as the representative of the Scottish hierarchy. Then came the Catholic peers, headed by the Duke of Norfolk, and next the representatives of the other House, the Catholic Members of Parliament. They were headed by Mr. John Redmond, the Irish leader. With him were some forty of his party, Mr. John Dillon and Mr. T. M. Healy among the foremost.

Amongst those present in addition to the prelates, clergy, and the Catholic Members of Parliament, were the Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Denbigh, Earl of Abingdon, Earl of Kenmare, Lord Dorner, Lord Arundell, Lord Braye, Lord Clifford, Lord Lovat, Lord Killanin, Lord Petre, Lord Walter Kerr, Viscount Campden, Sir George Errington, Sir John Knill, Sir Humphrey de Trafford, Sir George Lambert, Sir Philip Rose, Sir Francis Fleming, Sir Thomas Burke, Sir Westby Perceval, Sir Reginald Barnewall, Sir Charles Cuffe, Sir John Purcell, Hon. Frank Russell, Hon. Charles Russell, the Duchess of Norfolk, the Dowager Duchess of Newcastle, Lady Arundell, Lady Petre, Lady Dorner, Lady Russell, of Killowen, Lady Mary Howard, Lady Edmund Talbot, Lady Mostyn, Lady Knill, Lady Euan Smith, Hon. Mrs. Codrington, Hon. Mrs. Petre, Mrs. Craigmie, Lady Fleming, Lady Primrose, Lord Norreys, Lady Turner, Hon. Mrs. Beresford, Lady Alice Fitzwilliam.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from the following:—The Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, his Lordship the Bishop of Galloway, his Lordship the Bishop of Arindela, the Marquis of Ripon, the Earl of Granard, the Earl of Gainsborough, Viscount Gormanston, Viscount Llandaff, Lord Mowbray and Stourton, Lord Vaux of Harrowden, Lord North, Lord De Freyne, Lord Gerard, Lord Brampton, Sir John C. Day, Sir Francis C. Burnand, Sir Roper Parkington.

His Grace Archbishop Bourne presided, and delivered the introductory address. The Hon. Charles Russell (son of the late Lord Russell, of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England) then moved the following resolution:—That this meeting condemns the Education Bill as fundamentally unjust, (1) because it places the religious education of children attending the public ele-

mentary schools under the control of secular local authorities; (2) because it does not take adequate account of the conscientious religious convictions of parents; and (3) because it imperils the rights of property. The speaker supported the motion in a speech which was admitted by all to be a triumph of oratorical power. This was the opinion of experienced pressmen. Mr. Russell (said one of these), has the perfectly musical voice that gave such charm to his famous father's eloquence. One could have almost imagined it was the great lawyer and judge who was speaking. The best and truest praise of Mr. Russell's speech is to say that he worthily played the part Lord Russell, of Killowen, would have taken if he were still amongst us. He was followed by Mr. Shee, K.C., Monsignor Brown, Mr. Charles Santley, K.C.S.G. (the famous singer), and others.

The overflow meetings outside the hall were addressed by Mr. Lister Drummond, Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., Hon. C. Russell, etc.

All the papers have had descriptions and articles of the meeting. The 'Daily Telegraph' and other morning journals recognised enthusiastically the great significance of the protest, but perhaps the most notable acknowledgment was the following from the 'Daily News': 'It was a remarkable triumph of organisation that was witnessed at the Albert Hall on Saturday. Wherever one passed in London there seemed to be covered bra'c loads journeying to the great hall, each numbered and each crowded to discomfort. It is said that there were 25,000 people outside the hall in addition to those within. The Roman Catholic Church has nothing to learn when it is a matter of organisation; and I do not remember any demonstration to compare with this in impressiveness.'

## LAWRENCE

Mrs. J. J. Woods, who has held the position of organist of St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence, for nearly a third of a century, was entertained at a social gathering on Friday evening. There was a very large attendance, and the proceedings throughout were most enjoyable. The chair was occupied by Mr. James Keiliner, who referred to the many services given by Mrs. Woods in the cause of religion, charity, and social matters and added that she had won the affection and esteem of all who had the privilege to enjoy her friendship. The Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, in an appreciative speech, presented Mrs. Woods, on behalf of St. Patrick's congregation, with a 'cosy corner,' a very handsome and elaborate piece of furniture, and also, on behalf of Mrs. John Roche (of Blue Spur), with a very artistic piece of Limerick lace work. Monsignor O'Leary testified to the good work done by Mrs. Woods in her position as organist of St. Patrick's Church, and paid a very warm tribute to her musical abilities and many excellent social qualities. Mrs. Roche bore testimony to Mrs. Woods' many social and charitable characteristics, evidenced not only in this Colony, but in other lands. Apropos she gave an instance that occurred in the Cathedral in Limerick. The clever organist, who was the father of a large family, lost his position, which meant ruin to his wife and children. No lady was thought physically capable of performing the duties, as the instrument was a pipe organ, and one of the largest; but when the circumstances were made known to their guest, then quite a young woman, she offered to fill the breach. When pay day came she declined the salary, and begged the Bishop's administrator to grant her a favor, which was to reinstate the former organist and hand over to him the salary offered to her, and this was accordingly done. Mr. J. J. Woods, on behalf of his wife, acknowledged the gifts which had been presented to her, and thanked the donors most cordially for their kindness. To few was it granted to occupy so prominent a position in a choir as had been Mrs. Woods' lot; but while all earthly choirs must end sooner or later, it was to be hoped that they would be reunited in that heavenly choir where there was no more parting. He could not find words to adequately express his wife's feelings of gratitude to Mrs. Roche for her artistic present and kind words. He could only say that the valuable gift and the still more valuable and affectionate words accompanying it could only emanate in the kindly heart of an Irish lady when addressing a sister compatriot.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.