

HAWERA.

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

Mr. Devlin's visit to Hawera was in every sense a brilliant success. The orator of Wednesday is the same Master Devlin whom Mr. Sexton complimented eighteen years ago for a most beautiful and striking speech. Since then—and no doubt inspired by his predecessor in the seat—he has made the history of his country's wrongs and sorrows and glories his constant study and meditation; his heart has wept and bled over her trials; and he has made plans for winning back her olden glories, till his tears and his efforts have fashioned him into what T. P. O'Connor described in a great speech in Liverpool the other day: 'One of the ablest, most eloquent, bravest, purest men Ireland ever enlisted in her ranks, is my beloved friend Joseph Devlin.'

It was inevitable that every Irishman in the district should answer the roll-call on Wednesday to rally round this pure-souled patriot. It was inevitable that Mr. Devlin should supply the keenest logic for subtle Celtic minds, and, sweeping their responsive heart strings, play like a mighty master on their tenderest emotions. His pleading of Erin's cause (as one of the local speakers remarked) 'was a fulfilment of the prophecy:—

'The stranger shall hear thy lament on his plaint,
The sigh of thy harp shall be sent o'er the deep;
And thy masters themselves, as they rivet thy chains,
Shall pause at the song of their captive, and weep.'

Versatility truly marvellous! At Major's, where Mr. Devlin was entertained at supper with the committee, his response to the toast was 'a gem of purest ray serene'. I have heard nothing so beautiful in my life.

The local priests, whose guest he was, say they will never forget the charm of his personality. The local paper describes his speech as 'a logical and oratorical triumph, dispelling distrust and fostering a spirit of oneness, setting out the wrongs of his country in a style and form which carry conviction. His utterances are from a heart bleeding for his country's undoing.'

Mr. Major, member for the district, and also chairman of the meeting, proposed that the meeting extend to Mr. Devlin's mission its moral and material support. He bestowed the highest praise on Mr. Devlin, and declared that his speech that evening was the most magnificent oration he (Mr. Major) ever heard—a glorious address, without vituperation or denunciation.

Mr. Robbins, ex-Mayor of Hawera, seconded the motion. In a brilliant speech he said he saw the benefits of self-government in his native Canada.

Father Power, chairman of the reception committee, in what Mr. Devlin described as a touching and pathetic address, proposed a vote of thanks to the orator of the evening. He told Mr. Devlin he need not fear for the ancient race, with twenty-three millions of them far from the green shores of Erin. 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder.'

Mr. O'Brien, an old playmate of Mr. Devlin, seconded the motion in a well-timed speech.

Mr. Devlin returned thanks to the chairman and praised his sagacity for identifying himself with the Irish party, that has done so much for true democracy.

The financial results of the meeting surpassed all expectations. The original intention was to hold one meeting at Hawera for all South Taranaki, and it was expected that about £100 would be raised. Ultimately Patea threw in its lot with Wanganui. Stratford held its own successful meeting, contributing £150. Nevertheless Hawera netted the magnificent sum of £220: Every Irish Catholic from Hawera to Opunake subscribed. Fifty Irishmen of magnificent physique, and as straight and handsome as kings, winning the admiration of all beholders, entertained Mr. Devlin at dinner at O'Neill's Hotel and sat behind him on the stage. God speed the brilliant envoy, and may he have a foremost place in the first Government of Ireland!

MASTERTON.

Mr. Devlin addressed a large meeting in Masterton on January 14. He was enthusiastically received, and the following resolutions were carried:—That this meeting extends a hearty welcome to Mr. Devlin as envoy of the Irish National party, and assures him that the people of Masterton and surrounding districts cordially sympathise with the endeavors of the

party with which he is associated to secure for Ireland the full powers and privileges of self-government.'

There was a generous financial response for the Irish cause.

WANGANUI.

Mr. Devlin arrived in Wanganui on the 10th. He was met by the local reception committee and a fairly large number of citizens, including a good proportion of ladies, by whom he was given a warm reception. Mr. Devlin was officially welcomed by the Mayor (Mr. C. E. Mackay), Mr. Thomas Lloyd, secretary of the local reception committee, then read to the distinguished visitor an eloquent address of welcome, signed on behalf of the Irishmen and sympathisers of the district, by Dean Grogan (chairman) and Mr. T. Lloyd (secretary of the committee). Mrs. Johanna Murphy then presented Mr. Devlin with a handsome bouquet, and welcomed him in the Gaelic tongue. Mr. Devlin replied in a brief and brilliant address.

On the same evening there was a large audience at the Opera House, when Mr. Devlin delivered an address on Home Rule. The chair was occupied by his Worship the Mayor, and there were also on the platform Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.H.R., Dean Grogan, Fathers Mahony, Molloy (Marton), O'Dwyer (Hawera), and McDermott, C.S.S.R., and Mrs. Beasley, A. D. Willis, F. Neylon, T. Lloyd, Dempsey, J. S. Lacy, J. M. Murphy, T. Hogan. During the evening appropriate Irish selections were played by Mr O'Hara's orchestra.

His Worship the Mayor, in a short and happy speech, introduced Mr. Devlin to the audience.

Mr. Devlin received an ovation on rising to speak. He thanked the Mayor for his kind welcome, and then plunged into his subject, which he treated on the same general lines as have been already reported in our columns. Mr. Devlin's great oration produced a profound effect upon his hearers. The applause was hearty and frequent, and at the close the orator was greeted with rounds of cheering.

On the motion of Mr. J. T. Hogan, seconded by Mr. R. T. Noble Beasley, the following motion was carried unanimously: 'That this meeting pledges itself to give both moral and material support to the Irish National party in their efforts to secure self-government for Ireland, the granting of which we are convinced would result in strengthening and consolidating the British Empire.'

On the motion of Mr. A. D. Willis, seconded by Mr. J. S. Lacy, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Devlin for his speech.

Mr. Devlin returned thanks, and moved a vote of thanks to the chair, to the press, and all who had assisted in promoting the meeting.

ASHBURTON.

On last Saturday evening Mr. J. T. Donovan addressed a well attended and highly representative gathering at Ashburton. The Mayor presided and the local Catholic clergy were also present. Mr. Donovan's speech was well received and warmly applauded. At the conclusion the following resolution was adopted by acclamation: 'This meeting, having heard Mr. Donovan's address, tenders him its heartiest thanks, and hopes that in the near future Ireland will enjoy the blessing of self-government which New Zealand so highly prizes.'

The splendid sum of about £200 was raised to further the cause of Home Rule to Ireland.

NOTICE.

In centres where we are not represented by regular correspondents, promoters of Irish delegates' meetings will do us a favor by sending us at the earliest possible moment marked copies of papers containing reports of such meetings.

Pedro Alvarado, owner of the Palmillo mines at Parrel, Chihuahua, Mexico, whose wealth is estimated at more than 150,000,000 dollars, announces he will distribute 10,000,000 dollars or more to the poor of Mexico very soon. Alvarado is noted for his charities, and has been a most generous contributor to the poor for several years. He has built several Catholic churches and schools, and declares that hereafter he will give away a few million dollars every year.

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....