

should they be required, there were plenty of Irishmen scattered over all parts of the world ready and willing to pay their passages to the Old Country, to put down the rebels of Ulster and the disloyal subjects of the King.

His Worship the Mayor of Auckland, Mr. C. J. Parr, followed, and cordially welcomed Mr. Redmond. 'Concerning the thorny subject of Home Rule,' remarked the Mayor, in joining in the welcome on behalf of the city, 'I hope that civil war will be avoided, and that a peaceful settlement will be effected. No sane person could or would object to the granting of Home Rule to Ireland. The self-governing portions of our Empire knew its potentialities and great benefits. British statesmanship was not surely so bankrupt in resource, so insolvent in initiative, that a way out of the difficulty could not be found.'

The Bishop of Auckland (Right Rev. Dr. Cleary) welcomed Mr. Redmond as one of the original members of the magnificent Irish Party, as constituted by the late Charles Stewart Parnell, as a sturdy, uncorrupted, and incorruptible member of the band that had labored pertinaciously to make Ireland a nation once again, and as a compatriot who had witnessed the silent and peaceful revolution when the peasantry of the country had the land of their forefathers restored to them, and as one who had played a man's part in the regeneration of a nation. The Bishop referred to the struggle that had been pursued, ever since Ireland lost its Parliament by force and fraud in 1800, and, commenting upon the oft-repeated but futile threats of armed insurrection along the intervening years, declared that the time was drawing near when the Protestant partisans of Belfast would discover that they were being made the tools and pawns of a party for political purposes. To-day a still small voice was speaking for peace; the point of the olive branch was sticking out beyond the point of the bayonet. It was a welcome sign. He declared, with emphasis, and the accompaniment of ringing cheers, that 'no party governing an Irish Ireland can by any possibility or combination of circumstances make such a hideous mess of the government of Ireland as Westminster has done.'

MR. REDMOND ON THE PROGRESS OF HOME RULE.

Mr. Redmond, on rising to speak, was accorded another ovation from the enthusiastic audience. After acknowledging the heartiness of the welcome, and the evidences of sympathy and support from the liberty-loving people of New Zealand, Mr. Redmond referred to the development that had taken place in the Home Rule question in the thirty-one years that had elapsed since he previously visited Auckland. He reviewed the causes that had brought about the advancement. It was recognised that upon the solution of the question depended the unity, welfare, and progress of the British Empire. The hundred years of forced government in Ireland had been a failure and a mistake. Rack-renting, evictions, and persecution had been eliminated, and the whole of the soil was owned by the masses and the ancient race. There was no land question to prevent Home Rule. The self-government conceded in county and district councils had shown that the Irish were capable of self-government on the broader field. The establishment of a national University for Ireland had dispelled the fears expressed concerning a preference education. The objections of the past had been removed, one by one. On and from the day that the King went to Ireland, surrounded by Irish Ministers, to open an Irish Parliament, Ireland would stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the Empire. Mr. Redmond declared emphatically that the fears of Ulster, or any other minority, not getting fair treatment were groundless. Despite unexampled excitement and provocation, of insults, of slanders and unworthy motives during the last two years, the Nationalist Party had acted with patience and restraint, so that nothing would be said or done to leave a scar or wound behind. There was no reasonable concession that they were not prepared to make to satisfy any honest objection or alarm; they would give representation beyond proportion, un-

democratic as it might be, but they would not surrender the principle that Ireland was entitled to self-government. He asserted that Home Rule was everywhere supported, that even Ulstermen opposed to it were in a minority, and that there was no likelihood of the religious element creeping in to the detriment of any section. Parliament would not be intimidated by any threats of civil war, and the labor and struggle of years was about to be consummated.

On resuming his seat Mr. Redmond was loudly applauded. He is an eloquent and forceful speaker, and he held the audience spellbound throughout his speech, which was punctuated at intervals by rounds of applause. He made a deep and lasting impression. The following resolution was proposed by Mr. M. J. Sheahan, and seconded by Councillors P. J. Nerheny and J. C. Gleeson:—'This meeting of the Irish residents of Auckland renews its whole-hearted support and approval of the Irish Parliamentary Party under the incomparable leadership of Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., and rejoices at the near approach, after years of ceaseless struggle, of Home Rule for Ireland.' This meeting heartily thanks Mr. W. H. K. Redmond, M.P. for East Clare, for his eloquent and patriotic address, and for his long and fearless advocacy of the right of Irishmen in Ireland to govern themselves.

On being put to the meeting by the chairman, it was carried by loud acclamation.

The following musical items were interspersed among the speeches:—'The minstrel boy,' Mr. J. H. Egan; 'Believe me if all those endearing young charms,' Miss Adelaide Bruce; 'Wearing of the green,' Mrs. Hansen; 'Avourneen,' Mrs. F. G. Bourke; and 'She is far from the land,' Mr. F. G. Bourke. A verse each of 'God save Ireland' was sung by Miss Bruce and Mr. F. G. Bourke, the audience standing and lustily singing the chorus. Mr. Harry Hiscocks, assisted by Miss Lowry, played the accompaniments very tastefully.

Three cheers were given for Mr. and Mrs. Redmond, and Mr. Redmond called for three cheers for the Bishop, adding, 'He is a Wexford man like myself.'

Thus terminated one of the most successful and memorable of the many Irish gatherings held in Auckland city.

On Saturday, Mr. J. C. Gleeson drove our guests far out into the country in his motor car, and the last visit made was to the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Ponsonby, where Mr. Redmond briefly addressed the Rev. Mother and Sisters assembled. He assured them that all was well with Ireland, and before many months were over, their long-cherished hopes would be realised. His earliest recollections were associated with the Mercy Order, and he had a sister in that illustrious Order. At the request of the Rev. Mother, Mr. M. J. Sheahan thanked Mr. and Mrs. Redmond for their presence, and Mr. Redmond for his kindly speech.

From the convent, the visitors proceeded to the Marama, which left Vancouver at 5.45 p.m. Hearty cheers were given by a large body of Irishmen on the wharf, as the Marama moved off, Mr. and Mrs. Redmond bowing and waving good-bye. As the big liner went out from the shore, a voice, with an unmistakable Milesian accent, called out, 'God bless you, Willie Redmond.'

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