

West of Ireland, where the Protestants are in a small minority, and where they laugh at the fears of their co-religionists in Ulster. On the other hand, I could give several instances of intolerance occurring some years ago from the Protestants of the North that would be incredible in England. I am glad to know that much of this Protestant intolerance has passed away in Dublin, and many instances of the kindly feeling between Protestants and Catholics, outside a corner of Ulster, could be given by anyone living here. Even inside that 'corner of Ulster' kindly feelings prevail between thousands; and no other feelings would exist were it not for the efforts of the Moores and Craigs.'

Mr. R. M. Barrington, a leading County Wicklow agriculturist, writes:—

'I have no fear of religious intolerance under Home Rule, and have every confidence in the good sense of my Catholic neighbors and fellow-countrymen.'

And Mr. William H. Brown, a leading barrister, who practises in Dublin and lives at Blackrock, says:—

'Personally, I think there are no grounds for the assertion heard from so many Tory platforms—that Irish Protestants are in danger of persecution on account of their religion. Apart from a handful of fanatical enthusiasts who are found in all creeds and in all countries, and who ever confound sectarianism with religion, there are, I believe, no bodies or sections of Irishmen who do not respect and revere the purely religious beliefs of their neighbors, however much they may personally differ from them. I have lived in each of three Irish provinces, and have visited the fourth, but I have never met with an instance of persecution for his religion's sake. On the contrary, I have both read and known of many instances, in districts by no means Protestant, where Protestants have been treated not only with civility and respect, but have been regarded even with affection.'

Then Mr. Crofton, Professor of Pathology in the National University of Ireland, tells all who care to listen and reflect:—

'I have never noticed the slightest sign of religious intolerance on the part of Roman Catholics in Ireland—very much the contrary, in fact. I have spent all my college and university days amongst Catholics, and have never received anything but the greatest kindness and consideration from both professors and students; and now that I am one of the staff of University College my experience is just the same—invariable kindness and consideration, and readiness to help me in every way.'

Experience of a Dublin Man.

One of the oldest and most experienced of Dublin's public men is Mr. James Crozier, J.P., County Councillor, a gentleman who has played a large part in the life of the capital. And Mr. Crozier says:—

'So far from expecting any religious intolerance from my Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, should the Home Rule Bill become law, my anticipations are in exactly the opposite direction. For the last 53 years I have lived amongst the people of the Arran Quay Ward, which contains the largest number of Catholic voters in the city. Though an Irish Protestant, I have been chosen by the electorate to represent them on practically every Public Board in Dublin, including, amongst others, those of the North and South Dublin Unions, the Richmond District Asylum, the Town Council, etc., and have been appointed by the last-named body, in which by far the great majority of the members are Roman Catholics, as one of the visiting justices of his Majesty's Prisons, as well as on the principal committees of the Corporation. I am pleased to number amongst the Roman Catholic clergy many personal friends, and am happy to say I have always enjoyed their confidence and support at any of the elections which I have contested. These actions on the part of my fellow-citizens who differ from me from a religious point of view, show no spirit of intolerance, and I am quite certain that in the future the Protestants of this city will enjoy from their Roman Catholic fellow-citizens the same tolerance and confidence that has always been shown them in the past.'

Here is testimony from Castlelyons, Cork. Mr. R. Ginn, a merchant, writes:—

'Few have had more opportunities of testing Catholic toleration than I have had. Coming here 25 years ago, a stranger and a Northern Protestant, I started business on a small scale, and, thanks to the patronage of my Catholic neighbors, I have succeeded beyond my expectations. I have not the least doubt that if Home Rule was granted to-morrow it would not make the slightest change in my dealings with my Roman Catholic neighbors, as, if they wanted to injure me, there was nothing to prevent them doing so for the past 25 years. The parish priest is one of my best customers.'

Clergymen and Others Given Testimony.

Mr. William Abraham, Nationalist member for over a quarter of a century:—

'My personal experience speaks for itself. Living in the city of Limerick, where my co-religionists are in an insignificant minority, I was elected year after year by my Catholic fellow-citizens as chairman of the Board of Guardians, and afterwards as M.P. for West Limerick. In 1910, at the request of my Parliamentary colleagues, I stood as a candidate for the Harbor Division of the Irish metropolis. My opponent was a Catholic Nationalist, but the question of religion was never raised, and I was elected by a majority of 2613.'

Lieut.-Colonel Boulger, Cork:—

'I am a Cork Presbyterian, and for the last eleven years have been living in the immediate neighborhood of this metropolis of Munster, and where the Roman Catholics outnumber the Protestants (according to the 1911 census) by 15 or 16 to 1, and yet during all this time, have never heard the faintest whisper of religious intolerance, to say nothing of persecution; and I would be amongst the strongest opponents of Home Rule if I thought its advent in any way threatened such a disastrous state of affairs. On the contrary, I look forward with confidence in the continuance of the present amicable relations between the rival religions, and to many other blessings and advantages which the granting of Home Rule will carry in its train.'

Sir Charles H. Brett, a prominent Belfast solicitor:—'I have not, and have never had, the slightest fear of religious intolerance under Home Rule.'

Rev. J. M. Hamilton, D.D., M.A., ex-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.—'I have lived in Dublin for nearly 50 years. I have always received the utmost courtesy and kindness from my Roman Catholic neighbors, and I have no fear of persecution in the future, no matter what the political changes may be.'

Rev. William MacKeown, Presbyterian minister, Scots Church, Cork.—'It is now nineteen years since I came to live in Cork, and during that time I have never experienced, and have never known, an uncivil or unfriendly act done by a Roman Catholic to a Protestant on account of his Protestantism. It was my privilege when I first undertook ministerial duty in this city, to live for seven years, as a paying guest, in a Roman Catholic home, where I made many acquaintances, both priests and people, and formed many friendships, that exist to this day.'

Rev. W. J. Nelson, formerly Rector of Bannow, County Wexford, and Rector of Stratford, County Wicklow.—'As an English parson who served for thirteen years and a half in Ireland, I am glad to have an opportunity of bearing testimony to the unfailing courtesy and kindness I always received from my Roman Catholic neighbors. I went to Ireland in 1895, feeling that Home Rule would mean danger and difficulty for the Protestant minority. My experience as chaplain of Ballyfin, Queen's County; rector of Stratford-on-Slaney, County Wicklow, and rector of Bannow, County Wexford, has led me to see that I had taken quite a mistaken view of the situation. Never once did I find any trace of intolerance on the part of the Roman Catholic clergy and people towards the lonely and isolated churchfolk in the South of Ireland. On the