

## CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN ULSTER

### AN INSIDE VIEW OF UNIONISM

The Orange Society is split up into two factions in Ulster—the old Order is led and utilised by Unionist politicians for their own ends, whilst the Independent branch is composed of men holding democratic views on public affairs, and who decline to be made the cats-paws of landlords and capitalists. The two branches do not play in the same backyard at the present time, and, accordingly the Independents are having a very hot time of it from the opposing faction. The Independents of Belfast paraded on July 12, and held a meeting at which some interesting and instructive speeches were delivered. Mr. J. H. Doherty (the County Grand Master), in the course of his address, said that the past year had been a particularly trying time for members of the Independent order. Since 1902 they had been fighting an uphill battle, but during the past twelve months measures had been resorted to worse even than in the fight in 1902. Open violence had been resorted to against their members, and threats had been used against others for the purpose of preventing them from donning the Independent colors and taking part in the Independent demonstrations. 'It has come to this in the city of Belfast,' said the speaker, 'that the man who expresses himself as an Independent Orangeman and takes his stand on the side of the Independent organisation, must not only be prepared to suffer financially in his business, but to run the risk of life itself. There were men outside their ranks that morning whose hearts were with them, but who dare not appear in person, because they would not be safe at their work on Monday.'

The Boast of Civil and Religious Liberty had lost its force, so far as Belfast was concerned. They had no civil liberty; they were denied civil and religious liberty, if they said they were Independent Orangemen. On last Sunday night they saw what was never before witnessed in Belfast, when a body of Protestants, going to a Protestant service, were mobbed, hooted, and jeered, and had their way blocked until the police had to be called on to force a way for them. It was a disgrace to their city, and a disgrace to those who took part in the affair—and they were not hooligans, or at least were not dressed as hooligans. Many of them were officers of the old Orange Order. He did not know what the members of the Independent Order thought about continuing the fight which they had been maintaining for the past ten years, but he would say for himself, that as they had placed him for three or four years in the position of leader, so long as they were prepared to maintain the fight he was prepared to stand by them. Those who had attacked them had been yelling his name in all directions on Sunday night last; but it did not matter to him in the slightest degree. And (he said) I am going to ask you to show your loyalty. I am not going to ask you to risk your lives, though I was consulted yesterday by a man who I know was risking his life. I could not ask him to come here; but that man is here to-day, though without his colors. Continuing, Mr. Doherty said the man to whom he was referring had got dismissed from his job for his sympathies with the Independent Order; but he had found another position; and he said he did not mind now if he lost that one, as he could find another; but he did mind losing his life. In spite of all these threats and risks, the speaker said, they had with them a band of friends who were determined to maintain the fight for independence. Many would ask why was this persecution shown to the members of the Independent Order. They had put Protestantism in the forefront, and they had also declared that when there was no question of religion involved, they cared not what the party was, if they were

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and the British Empire, they would work with them. Mr. Thomas Sinclair had told the Prime Minister the other day that England had planted the Protestants in

this country, but he (the chairman) said England had never planted him here. He was Irish, and expected to remain Irish. There was no land he loved so well, and he denied altogether that the title of planter should be applied to Irish Protestants. To take shelter under the plea that they were planted here by England was a very low thing. They were here, and they were neither going to ask leave of the Pope or the Grand Master of the Old Order to remain. Continuing, the speaker said he had great belief in Irish Protestants. They had shut the gates of Derry in the face of James and his English and French troops. Continuing, he said he was one of those who were on the walls of Derry, and they did not run away, but held their meeting when Moore cleared off. Mr. Moore was then making the excuse that he could not disobey the law, but now he was out for disobeying every law. In conclusion, he said they were not hung to the tail of any political party. They had a perfect right to vote as they pleased, and act as they pleased, so long as they kept their Protestant convictions pure and unsullied. The main cause of their being banned was that they had refused to allow themselves to be tied to the tails of the official party; because they had refused to make themselves the tools of the landlords and capitalists; and because they had had their eyes opened to the fact that these individuals were using the old Order for their own selfish ends. In 1902 they had declared that they should be represented in Parliament by a man who knew the wants of the people and had the talents to voice them. And, because they did so, they were sent into the wilderness. But he believed those who attempted to do so would have a lively time of it.

He proposed the following, among other resolutions:—'That we are absolutely opposed to any proposal to form a so-called Provisional Government for Ulster or any section of it, and we declare our unalterable determination to stand by the Protestants in other parts of Ireland.'

#### The Ulster Wreckers.

Mr. H. C. Carleton said when they talked about Unionism, the term had to be qualified. They heard of Unionist Ulster, but he called them the Ulster wreckers; men who would wreck any community which they came into, and men who were opposed to all civil and religious liberty. If a man did not agree with the views of these men, he must be hounded and scouted and exiled from the country. Were they going to allow the Independent Order to sink into oblivion, or would they stick to their colors? Referring to the second resolution, he said provincial sounded very well, but who was to be Provincial King? He liked men to be consistent, but King Carson was a man who could take conveniently sick. It seemed that he got sick in the House of Commons when he heard of the attack on Mr. Sloan's house, and he had been sick ever since, though he had said he would come here breaking every law. Sir Edward Carson would not do that, but his dupes would do it. Who was it who inflamed the shipyard-workers to attack and boycott their fellow-workers? Who was it who incited them to open the furnace doors and attempt to throw a boy in? Who was it who incited them to drag a man by the arms while his head was bludgeoned? These were the men who would have a Provisional Government. Continuing, he said that under the peaceful rule of Britain Ireland could govern her internal affairs under a Home Rule Parliament, just as England could do. Canada had no voice in the government of the Empire; but under a Home Rule Parliament Ireland would have a voice. He asked them not to be gulled by the clap-trap of Bonar Law and Company, or they would have such a Government as the Belfast Corporation, where a Catholic or an Independent Orangeman could hardly get a look in at present.

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