

# Proceedings in Commemoration of the Centenary of the Society's Charter

## The President's Reception

*Tuesday, May 27th.*

THE opening function was a reception by the President of the Society and Mrs. Cox in the Great Hall of the Four Courts and the Society's Library. The attendance of over 1,100 included the Most Rev. Dr. McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin; the Most Rev. Dr. Dunne, Bishop of Nara; the Very Rev. W. C. de Pauley, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral; the Rev. Mr. I. Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi; the Very Rev. Myles Ronan, P.P., St. Michan's, Halston Street; the Rev. J. Poyntz, Rector, St. Michan's, Church Street; Ministers of State; the Lord Mayor of Dublin; the Judiciary; the President and officers of the Law Society, London, the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland, and the Law Society of Scotland; the Bar; the heads of the Universities; the Diplomatic Corps; heads of other professions; the Civil Service; County Registrars and Court officials. The reception was also attended by about 360 members of the Society and their ladies. The Great Hall of the Four Courts, passageways and the vestibule to the Bar Library were kindly placed at the Society's disposal by the Commissioners of Public Works with the permission of the Chief Justice. The Hall and the Society's Library were decorated with flowers and a programme of music was given throughout the evening by a string orchestra. The scene was a brilliant and beautiful one, which will be long remembered by those who saw it. The admirable lighting and floral decorations brought out the majesty and grace of Gandon's building. After the reception many of the guests and members of the Society attended a dance held in the Gresham Hotel by the Auditor and Committee of the Solicitors' Apprentices' Debating Society.

## Religious Services

*Wednesday, May 28th.*

**M**ASS of the Holy Ghost was solemnised in the Pro-Cathedral, in the presence of Most Rev. Dr. McQuaid, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. The Celebrant was Rev. F. J. Kenny, C.C., Pro-Cathedral; Deacon, Rev. J. McMahan, Chaplain, Loreto Convent, Dalkey; Sub-Deacon, Rev. V. Kelly, Chaplain, Little Sisters of the Assumption, Clondalkin. The Assistant Priest was Very Rev. Canon O'Ceallachain, P.P., Cabra, and the assistants at the Throne were Very Rev. Canon Doyle, P.P., Inchicore, and Very Rev. Canon Turley, P.P., Dolphin's Barn. The Master of Ceremonies was Rev. C. McCarthy, Holy Cross College, Clonliffe. In addition to the President, Council and members of the Society the congregation included An Taoiseach, Mr. Eamon de Valera, accompanied by his Aide-de-Camp, Comdt. Sean Brennan; the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Senator Clarkin, accompanied by his Chaplain, Rev. B. Harley, C.C.; Mr. Patrick Walsh, Minister for Agriculture; Mr. Patrick Hogan, Ceann Comhairle; Professor Liam O'Buachalla, Chairman, Seanad Eireann; the Chief Justice; the President of the High Court; Mr. Justice Murnaghan; Mr. Justice Lavery; Mr. Justice M. Maguire; Mr. Justice Haugh; Mr. Justice Dixon; Mr. Justice Shannon, President of the Circuit Court; the Attorney-General; His Hon. Judge McCarthy; His Hon. Judge Conroy; His Hon. Judge Sheehy; His Hon. Judge Lynch; His Hon. Judge Durcan; His Hon. Judge Binchy; His Hon. Judge Barra O'Briain; His Hon. Judge Roe; Mr. F. J. Mangan, Senior Justice; Master O'Leary, S.C.; Master O'Hanlon; Mr. T. A. Doyle, Hon. Secretary, General Council of the Bar of Ireland; Mr. T. P. McCarthy, S.C.; Mr. Thomas V. Davy, S.C.; Mr. William T. Cosgrave; Mr. John A. Costello, S.C., T.D.; Mr. Seán MacBride, S.C., T.D.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. R. Wyse-Jackson, Dean of Cashel. Lessons were read by Rev. R. G. Livingstone, Methodist Centenary Church, and Rev. T. A. B. Smyth, Christ Church, Rathgar. Mr. Henry P. Mayne represented the President of the Society.

In addition to members of the Council and of the Society the congregation included: the Hon. Mr. Justice Kingsmill Moore; the Hon. Mr. Justice Budd; Mr. Erskine Childers, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs; Mr. H. J. Catchpole, President, Mr. G. E. Warren and Mr. F. H. Mullan, Vice-Presidents, and Mr. R. B. Mayne, Secretary, Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland; Mr. G. A. Collins, President, and Mr. T. G. Lund, Secretary, Law Society, London; Mr. John S. Muirhead, President, and Mr. R. B. Laurie, Secretary, Law Society of Scotland.

# General Meeting of the Society

*Wednesday, May 28th.*

A special General Meeting of the Society was held in the Library, Solicitors' Buildings, Four Courts, Dublin, at 12 o'clock. The President opening the meeting said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen : We are honoured to-day by having with us among those who have been good enough to attend, Dr. Ryan, who is deputising for the Minister for Justice ; the Chief Justice ; the Attorney General ; and the representatives of the Law Societies of England, of Scotland and of Northern Ireland. These gentlemen have been kind enough to say that they would like to speak to you. So with your permission I will ask Dr. Ryan to address you.

DR. RYAN : Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, In the absence of the Minister for Justice, who is away on official business in Strasburg, I have been asked by the Government to represent him here to-day and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Society on reaching its 100th anniversary and to wish them every success in their Centenary celebrations.

I have no doubt that if the Minister were here himself, he would be able to speak to you on some legal subject but I don't feel equal to that and I can only express my best wishes for your success in your proceedings here during these festivities. I do know of course, like the ordinary citizen, that the solicitors' profession has done well for the country in building up our society, and that is due to a great extent to the solicitors themselves. They organised themselves in such a way that the members of the profession gave good service to the country in general.

The solicitors' profession is one branch of the legal profession and it appears to me to correspond more or less to the family doctor. The solicitor is the family adviser both on legal matters and matters generally. The members of the legal profession are usually men of wisdom and integrity, and I should say perhaps from my own knowledge, men of great ability and I could not illustrate my point better than to refer to my old friend here present, the President.

I did try to look up a little bit of the history of the profession and I find that they fought for some years for freedom for their own branch of the profession. I don't want to go into that at the moment but I did look up documentary literature in Thom's Directory and found that in the year 1852, in the year that solicitors cut themselves off from the Benchers, there was a violent earthquake in Dublin in the vicinity of Henrietta Street where the Benchers must have come to the conclusion that it was a sign of the displeasure of the Almighty with that august body. I have not had time to make a proper search in regard to the solicitors'

profession and I can only say that in the years since they have become independent, they have made good use of their time, and have regulated the standard of education of the profession, they have looked after the conduct and discipline of the profession, and I think that the Society deserves our congratulations on the occasion of their Centenary. I take it that this is a very formal meeting and I don't intend to detain you, but I feel that if the Minister was here, he would be expected to say something about the Solicitors Bill. It has been on the stocks for some time but I am told, on making inquiries, that it is expected to reach the Government in a few weeks' time. I cannot, of course, anticipate what the Government may do, but as a result of my very scant inquiry of the provisions that are in the Bill, as put in by the Department of Justice—after consultation, I take it, with your representatives here—I think it is a Bill which deserves consideration and support, and knowing as I do that every member of the Government is a reasonable man, I have no doubt that the Bill will see the light of day in a very short time. Again, Mr. President, on behalf of the Government, I offer you and the Society our congratulations.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Mr. President, Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Cúis áthas dom-sa bheith annso indiu ar an ócáid mór atá ann. Tá an cumann céad bliadhán d'aos, an bliadhán seo. Is mór an rud é sin. I join with the Minister in congratulating the Society on this great occasion. It is a big day when the Society celebrates one hundred years of its existence. I am not familiar with the position in Ireland in 1852 when the Charter was granted. I mean that I have made no close study of the legal profession in general, and of the attorneys in particular, at that time, but from the novelists of that period and others one can glean that in common with every other phase of our national life, the law was still suffering the aftermath of the years following the Famine. It would be, I think, to commit one of the sins with which Disraeli charged the lawyer, viz., the tendency to illustrate the obvious, to praise the achievement which is to the credit of the Incorporated Law Society over the hundred years which have elapsed since 1852.

It is evident to all of us here, and I should say evident to the public at large, that whatever may have been the position in 1852 the solicitors' profession through the instrumentality of the Incorporated Law Society has now achieved a position of great importance in the life of our people. The lawyer always held a high place in the public esteem in Ireland.

I think that all through the development of this Society during the past hundred years, the critical public were able to judge of the skill and ability of those who offered their services as lawyers. The position which the Society and the lawyers in the Society

have attained, evidenced by the function which the President gave us last night and this gathering here to-day, is well deserved. They have played a great part in the making of our Irish community. That is not alone due to the trouble they have taken to raise the standard of conduct. It is also due to the fact that the profession has attracted some of the best brains and characters in the country. Consequently you find the lawyer, particularly the solicitor, taking an active part in every sort of organisation, from scientific to charitable societies, not to speak of local administration and the Dáil and Senate. Lawyers have always taken an active part in public affairs, and they have contributed a great deal to the shaping of the new State in its early years.

In the early years of the struggle here, I was a solicitor. I paid a small tribute by choosing the solicitors' profession as my first love. In those days, in my county in particular, and in other parts of the country solicitors were the backbone of what has now come to be described in other countries as the "resistance." To the solicitor is largely due whatever credit goes, in the shaping of our State, to the establishment of the Sinn Féin Courts. These Courts could not have worked if it were not for the loyalty of the solicitors' profession as a whole. We had a number of solicitors practising in these Courts who differed widely from us on the policy of national independence. Furthermore, it was in great part due to the loyalty and ability of both branches of the legal profession in the years that have intervened since that the State has been so firmly established and that our Courts are respected as they are to-day.

I could talk for a long time on this topic but, as the Minister said, it is a formal meeting and I would be guilty of a sin which I mentioned by saying more. I have, I think, said enough to indicate to you that I am pleased to have had an opportunity of coming here and congratulating the Society on the work it has done and of wishing it success and prosperity in the future.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. CARROLL O'DALY, S.C.: Mr. President, Minister, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen: Ní hábhar maoite don duine méid a aoise. Ach ní hionann cás d'institiúid daonna. Cómhartha nirt agus buaine dhó-san iliomad blian. Agus i gcás an institiúid féin, ní beag an céad. Dá bhri sin is heal liom, thar mo cheann féin agus thar ceann lucht an Bharra ar fad, tráslú leis an Incorporated Law Society. Ba dhíomhaoin dom a rádh "go mairimid beo ar an dtráth so arís;" ach deirim, agus deirim le fonn, "go mairidh an Society beo ar an dtráth so arís, agus nára lagaidh a neart agus a réim idir an dá linn; agus go leigidh Dia gurb é ainm agus tiodal a bhéas an lá san air ná 'An Cumann Ionchorparaithe Dlí.'" May I, Mr. President, on behalf of the Bar, offer to you, Sir, and to the

members of the Council, the heartiest congratulations and the sincerest good wishes of the Bar on this occasion when you celebrate the Centenary of the granting of your Charter.

It is unnecessary for me to say, Mr. President, that the members of the Bar are very much individualists and that in no art are they more practised than in differing in their opinions, even when employed in a case on the same side and instructed by the same solicitor. For that reason, Mr. President, there are not very many occasions in the life of a barrister when he can undertake to express the unanimous opinion of the profession, but I think this is one of those few such rare occasions; and I have no doubt that I echo the sentiments of the Bar when I offer to you, Mr. President, and the members of the Council our congratulations and when I wish you *ad multos centenarios*.

Perhaps I may be permitted to refer to one small matter in the interest of history. The granting of your Society's Charter in 1852 was not an event of unclouded joy, because that year, 1852, was only the beginning of your independence. You did not achieve complete freedom until fourteen years later in 1866. You achieved it then by shaking off the last of the shackles binding you to another Society, none other than the Honourable Society of the King's Inns, and in the hundred years or less of your separation and independence, I think I may say that the two branches of the profession have grown to know each other well and in that time to honour and respect each other, recognising that each plays a complementary part in maintaining a common rule of law which is the basis of order and the basis of justice itself. In the hundred years, Mr. President, of your Society's chartered life we have seen the solicitors' profession in Ireland grow in strength and in importance, and may I say "may it continue so to grow and may it continue to flourish."

I would like to thank you, Sir, and the members of the Council for the honour accorded to me by permitting me to speak here on behalf of the Bar.

MR. COLLINS (*President, The Law Society in England*): Mr. President, Minister, My Lord, Mr. Attorney, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise amid this distinguished company to pay a tribute, as President of The Law Society and representing the solicitors of the Supreme Court in England, to our Irish colleagues and to the great Society which represents them, on this historic occasion of their celebrating the Centenary of the granting of its Charter of Incorporation.

The Law Society in England received its first Royal Charter in 1831; but the Society had been in existence for some years before that date and was indeed the lineal descendant of an Association which was founded on the 13th February, 1739.

That first Association had the magnificent title of "the Society of Gentlemen Practisers in the Courts of Law and Equity," and while tradition is a great thing, I am not sure that I have any quarrel with the decision of our forebears to substitute our present short title for it.

I do not suppose that even the most far-seeing of the twenty-two gentlemen in England who formed the Society of Gentlemen Practisers with the object and declared intent of "detecting and discountenancing all male and unfair practice," which they viewed with the utmost abhorrence, could have had in contemplation the possibility that their small and select Society would develop over the years and the centuries into the great organisation which it now is, governed by a Council of fifty and with a whole-time staff of over eleven hundred, including one hundred solicitors of the Supreme Court.

So, I have no doubt, your own Society started in a comparatively small way and, like us, you have gone from strength to strength on your way to attaining your proud position of to-day. We share with you a common heritage in the law. We have the same great traditions which we strive to maintain and indeed to enhance and we know, albeit the public do not realise it, that the legal profession provides the last bulwark of the liberty of the subject. The rôle of the lawyer in the building up and preservation of civilised society has never been more important, and the need for a strong, fearless, and, above all, independent legal profession was never greater than it is to-day.

Despite our daily struggles on their behalf, oddly enough, lawyers are not traditionally popular with the public. So often it is assumed that laws which are disliked or which on the facts of a particular case operate to someone's disadvantage have been made by the lawyers of malice aforethought. We know, of course, that it is our lot to seek to apply the law as it may be, and that many of the great reforms in the law have come from the lawyers themselves. We devote our lives to the service both of our clients and the public, and, so far as the solicitors' branch of the profession is concerned, we try to prevent their coming into conflict with the law and, where they do, we seek if possible to persuade them to settle their differences without resort to litigation, even though it may be to our pecuniary disadvantage to do so. This, however, is one of the great traditions of the solicitors' branch of the profession.

We are all here to day to celebrate the first great milestone on the path which your Society is pursuing and we from England congratulate you most warmly on your longevity and on your achievements. I believe that like The Law Society in England you consider it the duty of every solicitor to support your Society and, in addition, you encourage the formation of what we in

England call our Provincial Societies, which are numerous and cover the whole country. By consulting them, we know that we have the support of all the profession, when, as often, important decisions affecting the whole profession have to be made.

It is, I am convinced, only since the days when solicitors in both countries organised themselves for the good of the profession, resolved to put down abuses and to promote good professional conduct and discipline, that we have gained, as we undoubtedly have deserved to gain, the respect and confidence of the Bench, without which the administration of justice as we know it would be impossible. The presence of your Chief Justice here to-day shows the high standing which your Society has in Ireland, a standing of which we in England have been aware for a long time. I know how harmonious the relations between English and Irish solicitors have always been and how often the Secretaries of our respective Societies have corresponded upon matters of mutual interest. Long may this close and friendly relationship between us continue.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I congratulate your Society on achieving their Centenary and I wish you every possible success in the future.

MR. MUIRHEAD (*President, The Law Society of Scotland*): Mr. President, Minister, My Lord, Attorney, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am here in a strange position as representing a Society of lawyers who do not follow the pattern of the common law. We have an entirely different system of law in Scotland and we have no or very little contact with the rest of the English and Irish world in the law.

Nevertheless, it gives me the greatest pleasure because it is a very great honour to speak to a body of lawyers following an ancient tradition so different from our own.

It is a surprise to be able to speak to you at all, because it is only about two years ago that the profession in Scotland decided it would be better to have one Society. We have a number of Provincial Societies, but instead of the Law Society creating the Provincial Societies, the Provincial Societies created the Law Society. These Societies date back to the fourteenth or fifteenth century or earlier, when we were in supreme battle with the English. Things are very different in Scotland I can assure you. It took us thirty-seven years to get a Solicitors Bill through Parliament in London. We only succeeded in getting it through by setting up a Legal Aid System.

We have been trying to design Arms for our Society and I noticed in your Coat of Arms two dogs. I assumed they were watch dogs but I am informed they are whippets, which links your Society with the sporting side of Irish life.

I don't think there is much I can say except with what great



pleasure I find that although our origin differs we have the same object in view. We both wish to see justice established in our Courts. We both have the same ideas of justice and although we pursue them in slightly different methods, if you venture across the sea, you will find justice administered with the same impartiality as here.

I congratulate the Society and wish it every success in the future.

MR. CATCHPOLE (*President, The Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland*): Mr. President, Mr. Minister, My Lord, Mr. Attorney, Ladies and Gentlemen: It gives me more than great pleasure to come here from the North to be present on this memorable occasion in the development of the law of Southern Ireland and Ireland as a whole, during the last hundred years. Your Society has played a great part in this development. Your members have added lustre to an ancient calling, and they have justly allowed us to regard our profession as one which is not only ancient and grand, but honourable. We of the North owe very much to your Society. We have a strong feeling of kinship with you. Many of our senior members are members of your Society and are entitled to practise on this side of the Border. The degree of kinship which exists between our Society and your Society may not be simple to define. I think you might accept it as a just and reasonable compliment to say that we consider your Society as a "benevolent elder brother." A "benevolent elder brother" is a person whose greater years and experience allow the younger brother to benefit, and induce the younger brother to follow the excellent example he has set, whenever the younger brother finds that example not unduly personally inconvenient.

We do follow your example very frequently and very much to our advantage and we take pride with you in your Centenary and we appreciate your kindness in inviting the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and myself to your celebrations, and I wish to present this to you as a token of our appreciation and our affection.

*Mr. Catchpole presented to the President on behalf of the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland a silver casket engraved with the Arms of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.*

MR. CORNELIUS DALY (*President Southern Law Association*): Mr. President, Mr. Minister, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen: I feel it a great personal privilege to be present to-day on this very happy and historic occasion and to express on behalf of the Southern Law Association, whose President I have the honour to be, our congratulations to our parent body, the Incorporated Law Society, on its attainment of this Centenary, and our sincere good wishes for its continued progress and prestige.

One hundred years ago the Southern Law Association did not exist as such, and was not accordingly, as it now is, a recognised constituent body of the Incorporated Law Society. It did not become so until the Supplementary Charter of 1888, when as is therein recited, in order "to extend the usefulness of the Incorporated Law Society," and "to assist the Council in the greatly increased amount of work which had devolved upon it," power was conferred on that Council to nominate a limited number of members of the Northern Law Society and our Association to serve on it.

I am happy to be associated here to-day with the distinguished President of that honourable Society. Our Society came officially into existence under its present name and constitution in the year 1878.

Instead of regarding itself as a subsidiary body to the then well-known and well-established Incorporated Law Society, our Association, I am sorry to say, thought fit to maintain a separate existence.

While it was apparently prepared to accept the guidance of the Incorporated Law Society on matters of principle, it felt itself entitled to look elsewhere for guidance on other matters.

We find recorded in the minutes of our first meeting, which took place on 1st May, 1878, that while the sub-Committee appointed to frame rules were directed to have regard, so far as they were considered suitable, to the rules of the Incorporated Law Society of Dublin, it was resolved that the Secretary of the Northern Law Association be written to for copies of the Schedules of Costs then in operation by them.

Further evidence of this independence, and at times even aggressiveness, is available in the earlier years, but happily that wisdom which comes with experience seems soon to have asserted itself in mellowing our Association's attitude towards the Incorporated Law Society into that of whole-hearted co-operation which it has since adopted and held.

We are glad to think of the close and friendly relations that have since continued to exist between our Association and the Incorporated Law Society, as well as between the Society and all the Bar Associations in other parts of Ireland.

It is a great tribute to this Society and the work which its Council have continued to do for the profession, that, after the century of change and progress which has passed, it should hold such a unique and powerful position, not only in relation to the profession, but as between the profession and the public.

The past century and particularly the latter half of it, has witnessed developments from the legal point of view, which had been undreamt of previously; the emancipation of labour,

and the growth and development of Workmen's Compensation Law; the coming into existence of joint stock companies and the voluminous and complex legislation arising therefrom, and, partly from this, the development of accountancy as we know it to-day; the birth of the land purchase and registration systems; and the invention and development of the internal combustion engine with its very far-reaching consequences leading to the establishment of our present law of contributory negligence, which has become one of the mainstays of our Circuit and High Courts.

There can be no question that these developments demand wider and more specialised knowledge and harder work from a solicitor to-day than was expected from a solicitor of a century ago. It is, therefore, a particularly high tribute to the Incorporated Law Society that it has not only retained but increased its position of control and the confidence of the profession. Such an extension and diversion of the scope of a Society could easily have developed into a division of authority and purpose, rather than into the close integration of the profession as it has done.

We have every hope and confidence that the Society will continue to exist and develop in the forthcoming years on the lines which it has progressed and developed over the past century, and I think we can wish it no better future than that.

MR. ARTHUR COX (*President, The Incorporated Law Society of Ireland*): Dr. Ryan, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen: I find it hard to express even something of the thanks, and I may say pride, which I feel and which we all feel in answering the tributes of friendship that were paid to us to-day by those who have so kindly spoken, and the tributes that were also paid to us last night by all our friends who were good enough to come to us.

For me this has certainly been a time of very great emotion. It is almost impossible in ordinary words to express the deep feeling of gratitude of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland and of its Council, and, may I add, of myself, for all that has so generously been said by the Minister, the Chief Justice and all our other friends. In returning thanks, I feel that I am speaking not merely on behalf of those who are here, but also on behalf of those who have gone before us, and who did so very much more than we to earn the right to what we have received both last night and this morning. By this morning I mean not merely at our meeting here but the opportunity we all had earlier when we had an opportunity of thanking God for what He had permitted to us in the past and implore His protection and guidance in the future.

Dr. Ryan has been kind enough to come here to represent the Minister for Justice, and the Government, and to convey their felicitations to us. I should like to say how deeply we appreciate

that and how much we appreciate the kindness the other members of the Government have shown us. We know that Mr. Boland would have been with us if he had not had an even more important work to attend to in Strasburg in helping in the building up the laws of the new Europe.

The Chief Justice has spoken more than kindly. We feel that very deeply indeed. He is the apex of our legal system. It has always been a very great source of pride to us that he began as one of us, even though he went over to the Bar. He has had many honours in his life but I think the honour that he may perhaps have appreciated most was that of being Auditor of the Solicitors' Apprentices' Debating Society, and I am quite certain that the Apprentices' Debating Society was very much impressed last night when the Chief Justice was kind enough to come to its dance at the Gresham and to join in its revels.

The Attorney General has said very nice things about us. The Attorney General is a very sincere man. What he said he said from his heart. He is a very worthy head of the Bar and I think all those of us who have had dealings with the Attorney General's Department while he has been Attorney General, have received at his hands nothing but kindness and consideration. He admits that the Bar would be sorry if the solicitors' profession disappeared off the face of the earth. The solicitors' profession might be in an even worse state if the Bar disappeared. The Bar helps to get us out of many difficulties.

What has been a very great honour has been the coming to us of what I may call "our friends from outside our own system." I think it has moved us all immensely to feel that there should have come to us to join in our celebrations the heads of our Profession in England, Scotland and in what I would venture to call "our Northern Ireland."

We feel it very much indeed that Mr. Collins, the distinguished President of the Law Society of England, should have come to us and that he should have spoken as he did. In thanking Mr. Collins for speaking, I would also like to thank Mr. Lund, Secretary of the Law Society, who has also come to us.

Mr. Muirhead from Scotland has also come a very long journey. We often heard that everyone in Scotland used to find their way to London, but Mr. Muirhead has gone further and found his way to Dublin. I do not want to be rude to Mr. Muirhead, but when Mr. Muirhead arrived in Dublin (I was not myself able to meet him), a member of the Council met him. I asked this member of our Council what he thought of Mr. Muirhead and he said "He is very like Achy Overend." I don't think that a higher compliment was ever paid to anybody. I am not sure whether it is a higher tribute to Mr. Muirhead or to Mr. Overend.

Mr. Catchpole has come to us also and has come bearing gifts, and people who come bearing gifts are always very welcome, but even if he had come without gifts he would have been a very honoured, I won't say "guest," amongst us. I do not know whether Mr. Catchpole was right in describing us as a "benevolent elder brother," but I hope that he will eventually turn out to be a "prodigal son." I would like to convey to him our thanks and I am sure he will convey these thanks to his fellow members of his Council. He also is accompanied by the Vice-Presidents and Secretary who are very old friends of ours. I think we have been extremely honoured and extremely fortunate in having that tribute paid to us from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. I think we will always pride ourselves on that and will always remember it with very sincere joy. I want also to thank Mr. Daly for what he has said. I said a moment ago that Mr. Muirhead might have more often gone to London than to Dublin. It is often said that Cork people come to Dublin not to return, and we are grateful to Mr. Daly for coming.

I said at the commencement that I don't know how to return thanks but there was certainly no one in this room who felt with more emotion what this day has been and what it has meant to the profession.

Last night in the Central Hall of the Four Courts, as I listened to the people coming in, I remembered Charles Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities," in which he speaks of the sound of footsteps echoing down the years, and I can't help thinking of all the footsteps that sounded in that Hall since it was first built, and of all the things that happened there. In my imagination I see present to-day all the many friends who played their parts in the Society during my life, but who are no longer here. And when I speak of our past members I must mention Mr. William Hayes, who served for more than fifty years as a member of the Council.

There was never for our profession a more noteworthy occasion than the one we experienced last night. However, we still have something to look forward to. We have to get ready for the Garden Party which the President of Ireland has been so kind to give us. Again I would like to thank Mr. Catchpole for what he has presented to us. It will always be one of the most precious items in our treasury.

The President then announced that the meeting was closed.