

THE CORK ELECTIONS

DEFEAT OF ALL-FOR-IRELANDERS

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN RESIGNS

The Press Association states Mr. William O'Brien, M.P. has issued the following "Address to the People of the City of Cork":

" I have applied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, and intend to present myself again for your suffrage at the polls. The defeat of the candidates of the All-for-Ireland League in most of the wards at the recent municipal elections, owing to those obscure and squalid influences which usually prevail in ward politics, has been seized upon by the ring leaders and official organs of Mr. Redmond's party to boast in the most offensive manner that the programme of Conference, Conciliation and Consent has lost the confidence of the people of Cork. The situation has been seriously aggravated by the defeat of six Protestant Home Rulers - Miss S R Day, the eminent philanthropist, Mr. Joseph Horsford, High Sheriff, Mr Thomas Farrington, MA, Mr Thomas Andrews, JP, Mr W Bateman, and W H Finigan - all of them worthy citizens and considerable employers of labour, owing to machinations of the sectarian secret association which has obtained control of the so-called 'National' organisations. These sinister proceedings have been followed up by the attacks of drunken mobs upon the houses of inoffensive citizens, to the ... battle cry "Up with the Mollies." It is not possible for me to permit the actors in this orgy of intolerance, to exhibit in a false and odious light before the people of Great Britain and our Protestant countrymen in Ulster, a community such as Cork, which I know to be the most generous and broadminded as well as patriotic in all Ireland. My own usefulness or interest in public life lies in my being able to speak directly for half a million of the most sterling Nationalists

in the South, who are passionately convinced that Home Rule can and ought to be made an object of substantial advantage rather than of terror to the Protestant minority. Our assailants have not been content with spurning with contempt our repeated

patriotic moment to challenge my right to speak for the people of Cork at all, and they have undertaken to 'wipe off the face of the earth' every man who shares my convictions and disputes their ascendancy. This is a matter in which there must be no possible ground left for equivocation as to the relations between the people of Cork and myself. Wherever there can be the slightest doubt as to the feeling of the people on such an issue, I recognise that the only democratic way of solving the doubt is by promptly consulting the people at the polls. No efforts will be spared on my part to have the ballot of the people of Cork for and against the policy of Conference, Conciliation and Consent taken with a peacefulness and freedom befitting the solemnity of the issue at a moment like the present for our country. As soon as our assailants make the first sign of a determination to test their insolent challenge at the polls I shall be in the midst of you.

" WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

" Bellevue, Mallow, Jan, 17th."

At the January, 1910, General Election, Mr O'Brien was returned at the head of the poll with a majority of 97 over Mr Augustine Roche, one of the official Nationalist candidates, who was elected as second member. Mr Maurice Healy, who stood with Mr O'Brien on that occasion, polled 209 fewer votes than Mr Roche, while an Independent candidate secured over two thousand. At the last General Election both Mr O'Brien and Mr Healy secured election, the poll being:—Mr O'Brien (Independent Nationalist), 5354; Maurice Healy (Independent Nationalist), 5269; W Redmond (Nationalist), 4,746; A Roche (Nationalist) 4,743.