

**THE IRISH PROBLEM AS
VIEWED BY A CITIZEN
OF THE EMPIRE**

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The Irish Problem as Viewed by a Citizen of the Empire by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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AS VIEWED BY

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A CITIZEN OF THE EMPIRE. [pseud.]

[O. A. Howland.]

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'Paul said, But I was free born.'—*Acts*, xxii. 28.

LONDON :
HATCHARDS, PICCADILLY.

1887.

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CONTENTS.

ERRATA.

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|-------------------|----------------------|------|--------------|
| P 13, l. 9, for | <i>Wininpeg.</i> | read | Winnipeg. |
| P 16, l. 21, for | <i>Hindoos,</i> | " | Hindoo. |
| P 52, l. 11, for | <i>Settlers,</i> | " | Settlers. |
| P 75, l. 22, for | <i>Venial,</i> | " | Venal, |
| P 105, l. 18, for | <i>Commonalties,</i> | " | Communities. |
| P 114 (note) for | <i>Seems. .</i> | " | Seem. |

*... 22 Smi.

CONTENTS.



I. NATIONALISM, OR IMPERIALISM? . . .	1
II. A PURCHASE SCHEME	18
III. HOME RULE BY INDUSTRIAL PARLIAMENTS	64
IV. IRELAND AND THE ENGLISH RACE	114

* N. S. . . . 3 May 1916.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

THE PROBLEM OF IRELAND.

I.

THE determination now to be made of the future status of Ireland must give rise to tendencies in all the molecules composing the Imperial body. Mr. Reid, the author of *Why I am a Liberal*, in his later pamphlet, on Home Rule, attacks the very term, 'the Empire.' He would convert the existing legal conception of a vast people, united by a common allegiance to their Crown, into the conception of a series of voluntary alliances—a sort of partnership at will—between a number of

independent nations, of which the new Irish nation would be the type.

Mr. Reid's contention, therefore, serves the very useful purpose of calling attention to the fact that, in facing the proposals regarding Ireland, England stands at the parting of two roads. She has to decide once for all what shall be henceforth the legalised theory of the world-wide British State. Shall the new theory of local nationalities become established? Or shall the existing Constitutional theory of a United Empire be—not barely conserved—but made the aim of further constitutional development and held up as the object of patriotic sentiment?

Let a Canadian, above all, be heard to protest against the entirely fallacious assumption that the case of Canada is an illustration that patriotism is a sentiment that can be duplicated. The question of local autonomy in Canada has never in-

volved a thought of that question—of a local as against an Imperial national allegiance. Local control of legislation and administration was demanded, and was granted, on the ground of practical expediency alone. The Irish proposals of Mr. Gladstone, and the arguments used in their favour, have, for the first time, raised the broader issue. The decision of that case will form the first precedent; and as a precedent it must prove all-important in determining in which direction the current of Imperial policy is to be directed.

The Mayor of an Irish town has lately distinguished himself by declining to take part in the Jubilee services at Westminster, on the ground that the Royal Lady in whose honour he was invited was a 'foreign' Sovereign. By resolution of the Council the terms of the reply have been perpetuated upon the minutes of the