

IRISH UNIONISM

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Irish Unionism by James Winder Good

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JAMES WINDER GOOD

IRISH UNIONISM

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MODERN IRELAND IN THE MAKING

IRISH UNIONISM

BY
JAMES WINDER GOOD

AUTHOR OF
"UNION AND IRELAND"



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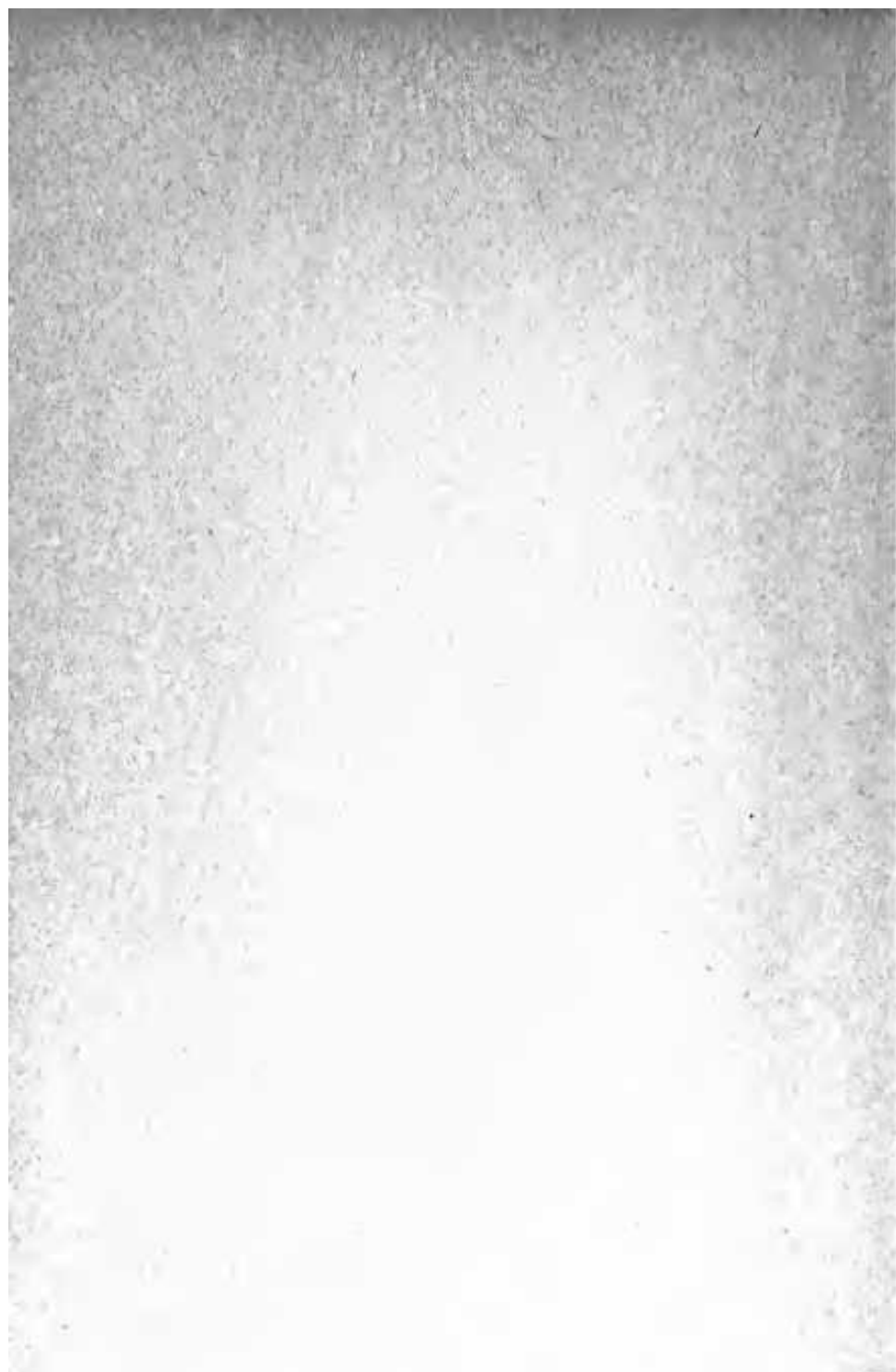
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IRISH UNIONISM

CHAPTER I.

THE MESS OF POTTAGE.

Anglo-Irish history for seven centuries is a record of the efforts of British statesmen to assert, extend, and consolidate their authority in Ireland. From the sword of Cromwell to the bribes of Castlereagh innumerable experiments have been tried; but since the beginning of the nineteenth century the instrument employed to enforce the will of the ruling Power has been the machinery set up by Pitt under the title of the Legislative Union. To one school of Irish political thought this measure represents the highest achievement of British statesmanship, and constitutes the keystone of the wide arch of empire. To another, the keystone figures rather as a fetter which binds Ireland helplessly to the chariot-wheels of her conquerors, destroys her individuality, and enables her rulers to tighten with one hand the grip on her throat while with the other they rifle her pockets.

In the opinion of both these schools the effect on the structure and development of the Union of the special circumstances and prevailing influences