

Idle Thoughts

ON

Ireland

BY

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The plan for the solution of the Irish problem most favored by the English upper classes till within a short time ago was the towing of Ireland into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and there sinking her. In my younger days I was under the impression that the suggestion was intended as a joke, amusing at first, but growing tiresome by earnest and unwearied repetition as the years rolled on. Closer acquaintance with the political mentality of the English upper classes leaves me in doubt as to whether the idea may not have occurred to them as a serious alternative to the granting of Home Rule. One reflects that the English upper classes are not guilty of much wit and humor, and drastic measures for the removal of the Irish difficulty have always appealed to their imagination. Possibly the spread of education may account for this particular scheme having fallen into disrepute. It is put forward nowadays by only very old gentlemen who generally clinch the argument by fiercely waving their umbrellas. The more intelligent of the Unionist Party appear to have convinced themselves of its impracticability. The later and much more sensible plan now advocated is that all Irish irreconcilables, together with their wives and families (In politics, an 'irreconcilable' person is a man who will not reconcile himself to our idea of what is good for him) should be 'removed' from Ireland and their places be supplied by English settlers. Oliver Cromwell