

And precisely the same was true of the Union of Great Britain and Ireland. It matters not how that union was carried, nor whether it was well or ill devised, nor yet that it failed to provide a permanent solution of the Irish question. Unless Ireland was to be conquered and annexed as part of England, it was no more possible to attempt a solution of Anglo-Irish relations without some scheme cut-and-dried in the sections of a parliamentary Act than it would now be possible to restore Home Rule to Ireland without such a scheme.

The appeal to English history is especially surprising from one who knows more than any living authority of the process whereby the Canadian provinces and the colonies of Australia and South Africa achieved their respective unions. No process of merely gradual growth could have brought into existence the British North America Act, the Commonwealth Act, and the South Africa Act. They are constitutions based upon popular assent consciously given; but such assent could never have been given until the parliaments and electorates of the several provinces and colonies had before them schemes which were cut-and-dried in the strictest sense of the word. How can two or more communities agree upon the establishment of a common organ of government for common purposes until the constitution and powers of that organ are defined in the terms of a legal document? And how can such a document be drafted until its leading principles are worked out in a series of resolutions? And how, moreover, can public opinion grasp the issues involved until such resolutions are

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