

sentatives would have place, and by this strong bond Ireland would be held for ever an integral part of the Empire.

In addition to the manifest absurdity and injustice of permitting Ireland to control her own affairs while having also a voice in the management of the affairs of the remaining two-thirds of the kingdom, it was feared by many supporters of Mr. Gladstone that Ireland might become a base of attack on England by a foreign enemy co-operating with Ireland. While for the greater part Ireland is as loyal to the British throne as the other parts of the kingdom, the bare possibility of her being in a position to allow herself to be used by an enemy to endanger the peace of the other portions of the kingdom made it impossible for her to possess that complete independence which Mr. Gladstone's measure of 1886 proposed. Especially so, when it was remembered that, notwithstanding the very great loyalty and the distinguished usefulness of many of her illustrious sons, there always have been, at least, a few restless agitators who might give endless trouble if wholly separated from the other parts of the kingdom. If she were a thousand miles or more distant from England it would make a considerable difference in this respect. Her geographical position makes it necessary that she should be bound by stronger ties than those which hold Canada and Australia to the throne, at any rate so long as matters remain as they now are and have been for centuries past.