

THE AWAKENING

advanced party demand a Welsh Parliament, whose official language should be Welsh. Already since 1889 the principality has obtained the right of electing its own County Councils.

Under the general laws of the English constitution the old Welsh nation has gradually recovered an independent existence, which growing as it does stronger every day, attests a vitality against which no oppression could hope to prevail. For seven centuries the Anglo-Norman dynasty did its worst against the conquered races. The various vicissitudes of this attitude can equally be seen in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The history of these nations, all for so many years politically annihilated, and yet all so ardently alive, is a wonderful example of the triumph of a collective soul with a passionate desire for existence. But through what eclipse, and with how great a lessening of their old power, have not the Welsh expiated the illusions of an excessive sensibility? A fanciful idealism was but a poor weapon to use against a strong arm and a disciplined temperament. Still, though much was lost, much was still preserved intact. Its traditions, its memories, and its language, these were the