

HOME RULE.

WHY should not a measure of Home Rule such as Canada enjoys be conceded to Ireland? In reflecting on the many woes which seem to be the heritage of poor old Ireland; her evictions, her rack-rents, her absentee-landlordism, her famines, her poverty, her agrarian outrages, her dynamite scares, and her miserable state generally; Canadians sometimes ask themselves what is the cause of all the trouble, and why, if Home Rule would have the effect of allaying it, is Home Rule not granted? Canada has Home Rule; why should not Ireland have it also? It would almost seem at first sight that no honest reason could be found for refusing in the one case what is freely and fully granted in the other. In Canada we make our own laws, even discriminating against the Mother-land, where it seems to be our interest to do so. With the exception of the Governor-General we appoint all our own officials, collect our own taxes, and spend the money for our own purposes, and barring the treaty-making power and representation in foreign courts, we are to all intents and purposes practically independent. Why should not Ireland occupy the same position? It is claimed by the advocates of Home Rule, that under its benign influence Ireland would more than regain her ancient prosperity in the days before the Sassenach—that her fields would blossom like the rose, her manufactures renew their youth, her people be once more contented and happy. “Only give us the control of our own affairs, and poverty and misery and vice and crime shall take their departure forever: our landlords shall become again attached to the soil, our farmers shall laugh behind their ploughs, our labourers sing the merry songs of yore, our cities shall be renovated, our villages prosperous and busy. Ireland, in short, shall become the Ireland she might be with her fertile soil, her brave and hearty people, and her many natural advantages.” If all this be so why should not the remedy be applied at once?

There is this difference between Canada and Ireland—Canada is and always has been loyal to the British throne: Ireland is and always has been disloyal—or rather the majority of her people have been so. If Canada were to use her freedom, as she might, to throw off her allegiance to the throne of Britain the position and influence of the Mother country as one of

the great powers of the world ~~would not be~~ materially effected thereby. But supposing Ireland to possess the same freedom and to use it in the same way what would be the result. Most certainly that she would become at once the stamping ground of England's numerous enemies, the theatre of conspiracies against her, the convenient centre whence should emanate all manner of annoyances and dangers to her people. No doubt it is a pitiable state of things that on account of their contiguity to a stronger neighbour a people are to be kept to some extent in a condition of vassalage, but how is it to be helped? With Ireland her own mistress, free to take what position she pleased in the parliament of nations, how long would England be safe? One of her strongest defences, her insular position, would be a defence no longer because on the soil of her neighbour her enemies would be welcomed and given the freedom to prosecute their schemes against her. In view of these facts, and no one will deny, we presume, that they are facts, how can it be supposed that England can possibly grant the demand of Ireland for Home Rule. To do so would simply be to apply the knife to her own throat, and Mr. Gladstone now begins to discover that the English people will never sanction any such suicidal measure. He is already beginning to recede from his alleged compact with Mr. Parnell. The letter of the Duke of Bedford, a life-long Liberal, to the *London Times* in which he says: “There is a growing belief that Mr. Gladstone seeks to abandon the loyal Irish to the domination of the disloyal,” and “This obliges me to ask myself whether the party alliance to which I have ever adhered is not strained to the breaking point. Many Liberals beside myself are eager for assurance to the contrary”—has opened Mr Gladstone's eyes to the fact that although the Liberals of England will go with him a long way there is a point at which they will mutiny. The opening of Parliament on Thursday 21st is awaited with intense anxiety. Lord Salisbury is to attend Her Majesty at Osborne to-day, 19th, with a draft of the Speech from the Throne for her approval. On his return he will receive a deputation of Irish Loyalists who have prepared an address appealing for protection for the loyal subjects of the Queen in Ireland to which his reply is looked forward to with “phenomenal eagerness” No Parliament convened in late years has had graver questions under consideration than those to be faced by