

will Ireland in the days to come, when neither Danish, Spanish, Scottish, English, Celtic or mixed descent, or any difference of creed, will count at all against Irish birth and brotherhood.

Considering that Ireland is not only an agricultural country, but a land of small farm and holdings, and that in her case there has been no attempt to enforce compulsory service, her contingent has been a very creditable one. The people of the North have a grievance in the Home Rule Bill being forced through against the protest of their representatives, and the Southern population, finding the Bill inoperative and likely to remain so, feel they have been deceived and misled, yet North and South have alike sent many of their sons to fight in a cause that is not specially theirs, except as it is the cause of wronged people and small nations. If anything is lacking in numbers it has been made up for otherwise, for of ninety Victoria Crosses awarded thirty have gone to Irishmen. It was Ireland as a recruiting ground that enabled England to continue the long and bitter Napoleonic struggle, and ensured final victory at Waterloo. If there had been no Ireland, or if it had been occupied by a hostile nation, England would have