

to the highest degree, whatever the extent of the federation.

The difficulty in the case of Ireland is the very strong objection, especially on the part of England, to Ireland being permitted to manage her own affairs in her own parliament, or council, and then also take part in the management of English and Scotch affairs as well.

To get around this difficulty, Mr. Gladstone, in his first Irish measure, proposed to dismiss Irish representatives from Westminster altogether, giving Ireland, with full power to rule her home affairs, absolute separation from the other parts of the kingdom. This looked like the beginning of the disintegration of the Empire. Then Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain and other foremost men in the Liberal party turned from their leader.

If there were an Imperial House, Ireland might be granted full power over all her local matters, and yet be held to the Empire constitutionally, by having representatives in the Imperial House to aid in the working out and adjustment of all those things such as are named in the preceding pages, matters as broad as the Empire itself, too broad to be classified as fractional and local.

I think it has been understood all along that Ireland has never asked for more than control of her local affairs. To this, I think, she is justly entitled, but this can never be obtained until a parliament exists which has power and authority to deal exclusively with matters wholly Imperial, in which Irish repre-