

advised action, at all events, on the part of the supporters of the Bill, to treat the manifestations of Ulster as mere bluster.' Ill-advised was the action of the Home-Rulers then, ill-advised is it likely to prove always, and not ill-advised merely, but unsupported by a shred of argument. If Ireland were right to resent the rule of England, then would Ulster be doubly right to refuse to bear the yoke which her enemies would lay upon her.

In one other respect the situation has remained constant. In 1885 Home Rule was a policy which, as Lord Hartington said, 'emanated from the brain and will of a single man.' As in 1885 so in 1893. 'It is not a policy,' said the Duke of Devonshire, 'which has proceeded from a political party; it is not a policy advocated by a political party and then adopted by its leaders. It is a policy which has been imposed upon his followers by the single will of one man.' Every word spoken those many years ago is still true. Home Rule has never been the policy of the nation; it has never been the policy of a party. Ireland, secure in her prosperity has never wanted it. It has meant always a career for this or that adventurer, not a national aspiration. And whenever it has seemed near to be realised, the leaders have shrunk back, because they would not have their occupation gone.

Another argument, the confusion and fallacy of which remains to be exposed, was countered again and again by the Duke of Devonshire. The advo-