

English and Manx languages ; and at the close of the Parliament,

IN ORDER THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL KNOW

the decrees of Parliament, it is the duty of the Governor, accompanied by the high dignitaries and the people, to go out to a neighboring hill, to read the decrees in the two languages, that all men may know the laws that are to bind them. Further, in Great Britain, if we presume to be official languages those which are tolerated in the schools, we have the Welsh language recognized in the Government schools in Wales, and, recently, the Irish language taught in certain of the public schools of Ireland. So much for the history of language so far as Europe is concerned, which I think sufficiently sustains the proposition I have laid down, that

UNITY OF LANGUAGE IS NOT ESSENTIAL

to national greatness. I go a step further, and I say that unity of language

DOES NOT NECESSARILY PRODUCE

national unity or national greatness. In support of that proposition I will call attention to the state of Greece. Greece is a country which, I think, will specially illustrate the proposition of my hon. friend (Mr. McCarthy), if such a proposition as his can be established at all. Greece is composed of many little provinces, but at all times the people spoke some Greek dialect, and Greek was substantially the language of Greece for all time. But yet, Sir, there was no unity of national spirit in Greece at any time. Greece from time to time was welded together by outside influences ; but there was no cohesion in Greece itself by reason of language or anything else ; and whenever the strong influence from without was withdrawn, the Greeks fell to destroying each other. Did you ever hear of a Greek boasting that he was a Greek ? The boast of a Greek was that he was a Thessalonian, a Spartan, or an Athenian ; not a Greek ; but if they had been influenced only by community or language, we should ever come across the phrase in Grecian literature, I am a Greek, in preference to, I am an Athenian. Take another prominent instance : take the case of Germany at a period when she may be considered to have been homogeneous in language. Germany has undergone many philological changes ; I speak of the old Roman Empire, founded by Charlemagne in the eighth century.

THAT EMPIRE BECAME PRACTICALLY GERMAN

in the thirteenth century, in consequence of the influence of the Teutonic knights. For a period they succeeded, by great force of character, in establishing the German language and displacing the Slavonic. Thereafter, from the fourteenth century to the Peace of Westphalia, three hundred years afterwards, Germany was considered as illustrating that which my hon. friend depends on : it was a country homogeneous in language, and