

it appears, can never merit other than the well and widely known opprobrium—'Perfidious Albion.'

THE IRISH.

Q. Is Ireland a nation?

A. The question is absurd?

Q. Can the Irish govern themselves?

A. The Irish governed themselves for three thousand years before the English invaded their country or essayed to govern Ireland. They had a strong central government at Tara for more than a thousand years. Here reigned 136 pagan and 6 Christian kings. After the seat of government was removed from Tara in 554 A. D. the nation retained its national character and prospered. Irish civilization stood highest among the nations of Europe right up till the English invasion. For legislation purposes, the Irish had their *cuirmtig* or clan assembly, and the "Daillar" representative legislative body for the Tuatha, and the Feis or national assembly for dealing with national affairs. Their kings were all elected to office and amenable to the people who enjoyed legislative powers in the *cuirmtig*.

The Irish people built up a system of jurisprudence well adapted to the national needs. The Irish people developed language and produced a literature which for importance and volume ranks second only to that of Greece. The Christian schools of Ireland were admired and celebrated throughout Europe. From England and from the continent came tens of thousands to the Irish schools, to be taught by British scholars. These taught in populous centres, founding schools and colleges, and were retained at King's courts. For 300 years i.e.

during the sixth and up until the ninth century—the period known as the dark ages—Ireland was commonly regarded as the 'light of Europe.'

During the ninth and tenth centuries Ireland like England, was harrassed and plundered by the Danes and Norsemen—the Duvgalls and Fingalls. Through all these years the Irish maintained their nationhood contending with these marauders, till defeating them in the Battle of Clontarf—1014—they ejected them from the land.

The Irish, regard the English in the same light as they did the Danes—viz.—Invaders and plunderers. They refuse to surrender their nationhood to the English, and hope ere long to eject these also from their land. Thus in the illustrious history of the Irish people, the soul of the Irish nation unconquered and unconquerable stands forth in indisputable evidence of the eternal fitness of the Irish to govern themselves.

The Irish are not a people of greed and grab; they assimilated the original inhabitants of Ireland, Firbolgs and De Dannans. The Irish colonized Alba in 252 A.D. 503, and assimilating the Picts who dwelt there, gave Scotia or Scotland its dominant people—the Scots. They gave Scotland its language, laws traditions, institutes of government and the Christian religion. It ill becomes Scots, whose land is a conquered province of this enemy country, England, to speak against the Irish and take sides with England.

England through the years of attempted conquest of Ireland, has planted fully three fourths of the Island with Anglo-Saxons and mercenary soldiers, Germans, Dutch, etc. But the Irish have assimilated and absorbed practically all of these. Only in two counties Antrim and Down do Anglo-Saxons hold a modicum of English nationality.