

not only stands pledged to do justice to Ireland, but has been doing it for half a century, and in its last measures—the Land Bill which was carried ten years ago, and the Compensation Bill which was thrown out by the Tory House of Lords the other day—it has shown that its sense of right is not hide-bound by conventional rules. Its victory over Jingoism in the last Election was the victory of righteousness over aggrandizement: under the same banner it still marches, and unless the Irish patriots distinctly see their way, not only to the political severance of their island from Great Britain, but to the peaceful establishment of an Irish Republic, wisdom bids them march on by its side.

It is natural that many should be found to arraign both the consistency and the wisdom of the Liberal Government in prosecuting Mr. Parnell and his fellows. If the prosecution were directed against opinion, the conduct of the Government would be most inconsistent and most unwise. But it is directed against public incitement to violence, outrage, and murder, which it is the duty of every Government to repress, and which, if they continue, will beget a righteous hatred of the cause for which they are committed, not only in England but over a great part of Ireland itself, and render the work of carrying remedial measures, in face of the Conservative resistance, even more desperately difficult than it is already. As we have said before, we are not even sure that the prosecutions will fail legally; still less are we sure that a proof given by the Government of resolution to uphold the law and handle law-breakers with determination will fail of the moral effect which was undoubtedly produced by the prosecution of O'Connell. No one who has not seen something of Irish administration can be aware to how great an extent the Ministry, on all these matters, is advised, and its course shaped by a standing staff of officials at Dublin, composed of men who know Ireland to the core, and are incomparably more capable than any outside critics, of estimating the public effect of any proposed measure in the minds of the people. There are some who ap-