

tion he desires to see restored to his native country. If he replies at all, the institution he names will almost certainly prove to be of English origin, and to have been abolished because it failed. This at all events is unquestionably true of the Irish Parliament that once sat in Dublin. Nor is the case different with literature, or law, or parliamentary eloquence. In all these great departments of human activity, men born in Ireland have done splendid work. But it has been in adding to the masterpieces of English literature, in moulding or administering English law, in adorning assemblies of English origin.

And mark well that this is no fault of the Irish, or, for that matter, of the English either. It is due to the historic accident that the first effective contact between England and Ireland took place at a period when the political system of the former, backward as we rightly deem it, was yet incomparably superior to the tribal organisation which still prevailed in Ireland. So at least I interpret the course of events ; but whether I be right or wrong, this, at least, is certain, that the English invader, whatever his crimes, found nothing and destroyed nothing in the Ireland of the twelfth (or later) centuries which could by any possibility be restored to the Ireland of the twentieth.

But granting, it may be replied, that Nationalist hostility to the Union or to Britain cannot be justified on the ground that Britain has destroyed an Irish civilization, may it not find a surer base in the opinion that the Union yokes together men of different race in one artificial and unworkable system? And is not the system unworkable because the men that have to work it *are* of different race?

On this question of race there seems to me much exaggeration and error. We who live now in the United Kingdom, or whose fathers emigrated thence to the new countries of the West, are doubtless of mixed descent, and doubtless the mixture is variously compounded in different districts. But there is not, so far as I know, the slightest reason for supposing that the difference is greater between Ireland and Great