

who remember what Hudson the Railway King was as chairman of some English Railways; and what he did; and what he became. One thing is certain, President of a board of thirteen, in an undertaking of this kind, is much more than one thirteenth of the whole. But then is he worthy of the position? Possibly, but we would rather he had not attained that position by the expenditure of some hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribery.

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Home rule is the name under which agitation in Ireland now ranges itself. It is the same in purpose if not identical with Repeal of the Union. The management of Irish affairs by the Irish people is no absurd proposal. People generally take care of their own interests better than others can do for them. The welfare of a neighboring country is not usually sought as a first motive to legislation. England has been charged, with much color of truth, with seeking her own good at the expense of the sister island. In latter years, it is true, the English have appeared to try honestly to benefit the cause of Ireland. That they have succeeded to some extent may be admitted, yet there is great dissatisfaction still exhibited, partly it may be, owing to the causes of evil lying deeper than the remedy has yet reached. Possibly too the evils are irremediable. There are different races in Ireland which have never been amalgamated, different forms of faith which indeed each party might enjoy to their own satisfaction without injury to those of the opposite creed, and there is the party of conquest and the conquered. This is the sore point. Nothing could ever reconcile the Celt to the possession of his lands by the Saxon. Yet it is impossible to dispossess the present proprietors or to relegate the property to its original owners. The Irish Church has been disestablished, but the great portion of the properties of which it was possessed it enjoys still. These properties were the possession of the Priesthood of the Roman Catholic Clergy before the Reformation. The principal land-holders, are of English blood, their lands being given as the price of services done in the conquest of Ireland, but it would be the cause of fearful misery to retake these and restore them to their original owners. Yet some revolution of this kind is what has been thought of—is in fact the underlying idea of that party whose watchword has been always “Ireland for the Irish.” Still, the more moderate of the party have denied that this was their policy. Apart from this extreme revolutionary sentiment, most Irishmen, Saxon as well as Celt, would vote for the “Home Rule,” believing as they generally do, that the interests of Ireland are not identical with, but sometimes opposed to those of England.

The two islands are so situated with regard to each other that separation is impossible, but at the same time, the tie that binds them might be substituted by another which would gall less. A federal union might be workable, and of a satisfying character.