

tell us they were not regarded as dangerous—the Irish chieftains “set nothing by the Flemings.” It seemed apparently to them in the ordinary course of things that foreign troops should be brought into the country to reinstate a petty prince. Disunited and selfish chieftains were easily brought to submit to the Norman, and thenceforward the history of Ireland is the history of a half subdued dependency in which the miseries of rebellion are aggravated by domestic broils. The Normans thoroughly conquered England. They only half conquered Ireland. But their tyranny in each country was equally systematic and cruel. We find in Henry VIII.’s day France interfering in Ireland, but like subsequent intermeddlings this interference amounted to nothing. When O’Neil revolted in 1597 and defeated the English at Blackwater he invited the Spaniards to come to the country. The fact that whenever there was a revolt against England foreign aid was sought, what does it mean? Would Ireland dependent on Spain have been a happier country than she has been? The government of Ireland to a period within living memory was characterized by want of statesmanship, tyranny, greed. But, I repeat, for all this the English people themselves were in no way responsible. And now once more I ask who built up the British Empire as we see it to-day? It is little more than two hundred years since the English East India Company retired from the Eastern seas to the continent of India. Not until 1718 was the knell of Dutch supremacy in the East rung, when Clive attacked the Dutch at Chinsurah. But it was during the great French war, from 1781 to 1811, that England wrested

from Holland nearly every one of her colonies, and our Indian Empire became a great imperial fact, where we rule 240,000,000, exactly double what Gibbon reckoned as ruled by imperial Rome. Now, what soldiers during the great French war, what soldiers since have been among the bravest and most effective in the British army? You know what work Irishmen have done in every field of activity since then. In America during the eighteenth century Irishmen were found on all sides. To-day there are millions of Irishmen in England and Scotland, and hundreds of thousands bearing English names whose blood is in part Irish. In Australia and Canada and India they have played their part and played it well. Whoever brought about Confederation—it was an Irishman—Guy Carleton, the founder and saviour of Canada—who first conceived the idea. There is the fabric of the British Empire. It is a stately structure. It affords room for genius and activity of every kind; opens up careers for all. Well, there is not a stone in it on which there is not the mark of an Irish chisel. (Cheers.) Irishmen have as much right to claim part ownership in it as anybody else. It is a Hiberno-British Empire. (Cheers.) They have as good a right to enter its best rooms as anybody else. Mind, I am only showing you your right. I am not giving you any advice. But if I did do this I would say to you “Never abandon Ireland, your country; so long as there is one thing she ought to have—if you live in Ireland—struggle for it; if you live here give that struggle your moral support; but do not deprive yourselves and your sons of your birthright; for there is no man, call he himself English or Scotch, who has a