

"And yet this brave little country is coming into her own. Slowly, by remembering that importance to a country is not given by a king, but by looking to herself. . . . she is being recreated from within. For the first time in her history, she is approaching the fundamental essential of a nation unity."

It should always be remembered that the Gaelic League is subordinate to none of the political movements. Aiming to preserve the language, and through it the national distinctiveness, of Ireland, the Gaelic League holds itself strictly aloof from politics. Its members may profess whatsoever political doctrine they will—Parliamentarianism, Sinn Féin, or Unionism. The League, as a body, commits itself to no political affiliation and is uncontrolled by any. What it has done it has done by its own efforts, and it holds fast to its independence and its non-political and non-sectarian plank.

There was held recently in Dublin, under the auspices of the League, a monster meeting called to express the demand of the nation that a knowledge of the Irish language be made an essential subject for matriculation in the new National University of Ireland. The following report of the proceedings, taken from a Dublin newspaper, emphasizes how deep and sincere are the convictions on this subject of the "Ireland that really matters":

The threat to West Britonise the new University in Dublin has revived Irish-Ireland. Only once before in the history of the language movement—and that at a time of crisis such as this—has such a great meeting assembled in Dublin, and has such enthusiasm and determination been evinced. Before the hour fixed for opening the meeting every foot of space in the Round Room of the Rotunda was occupied, and the halls and corridors of the building were crowded with people unable to find standing room inside. When the Lord Mayor ascended the platform, followed by Dr. Hyde, and men and women of differing classes and creeds, and varying political views, the great hall thrilled to the volleying cheers which in themselves declared the death-knell of any University which would attempt to carry on the evil and absurd tradition that this country is a British shire. The letters and telegrams read by the Secretary of the Gaelic League showed that outside Ireland, as well as within it, the issue was fully grasped—Ireland or West Britain. The Head of the Ancient Order of Hibernians cabled that Irish-American support depended on Irish being made an essential subject for matriculation. The Very Rev. Dr. Yorke cabled to the same effect from California. Among the many other messages was one from the workmen of Wexford, who have called upon the County Council to withhold raising a rate-in-aid unless the Irish language be made obligatory and one from Father Murphy, M.S.S., Enniscorthy, in which he said—"We in Wexford want no second edition of Trinity College. We want a University that shall be National not only in name, but in reality. We want a new University for Ireland and not for West Britain. That can only be secured by giving the place of honour to Irish and to subjects relating to Ireland. We trust your meeting will convince the Senators of the justice of your demands, otherwise we are certain to witness a repetition of the disaster that overcame the Irish Catholic University which justly died because it was dissociated from the National life."

When Dr. Hyde rose to move that the Irish language be made an essential subject for matriculation in the University, he was welcomed with prolonged