

The suggested reduction in the representation of Ireland in the British Parliament is being discussed in some of the English legal journals in view of the jealousy with which lawyers view any attempt to tamper with contracts and treaty rights. The Union Act of 1800, we are told, included provisions which were intended to be permanent and inviolate, but the *Law Times* comments upon the results necessarily flowing from that union as follows:—"Just, however, as individuals can with mutual consent modify their own engagements, so also can these congeries of units whose personalities are merged in representative bodies. Consider what in these cases those bodies were. They were originally two Legislatures which, for certain reasons, good or bad, agreed to unite. They had each inherent powers of growth and self-evolution which were, as it were, merged in the united Legislature for their common advantage." After referring to the process of change and growth found in legislative bodies endowed with vitality, and citing appropriate illustrations, the writer continues:—"The same united Legislature which carried this change can, with equal facility, make other modifications after an expression of consent declared in the way ordinarily adopted by such bodies. It is, of course, within the knowledge of all that proposals were at one time before the country, not merely to modify the Act of Union, but to abolish it. The right of any Parliament to modify the actions of its predecessors is absolute and indestructible, and essential to the well-being of a progressive State. It would be subversive of the very foundations of modern government to accept any idea akin to the law of the Medes and Persians which altereth not. The notion is also illogical and impossible, for it would at once do away with the doctrine of legislative supremacy if it were hampered with such restrictions and immutabilities. It is, in law, perfectly clear that the united Parliament can make what modifications it pleases in these compacts; such alterations have been made in the past with the concurrence of the majority of its members, and can again be made in the future. Whether or not such changes are good or bad, it is no business of ours to inquire."