

tried this method under conditions much more favorable to success; though I doubt if to-day we are thanking him for his contribution to the Irish problem. But the idea is gaining favor with the English Military Party and cannot be dismissed as altogether unimportant. Its possibilities are being discussed in our clubs and drawing-rooms, and already there is an echo in the Press revealing the underground currents of savagery that are everywhere threatening European civilization. The Press can be eloquent enough preaching the sacredness of constitutional methods to Labor. But where the interests of the classes are concerned it never hesitates to advocate recourse to Direct Action. The late Lord Salisbury's plan for twenty years of resolute government works alright provided the nation to be governed were not equally resolute never to submit. For three hundred years all the resources of the British Empire have been strained to the subjection of Ireland. And to-day this little nation of four million souls is in more defiant mood than ever, declaring that there is only one thing that will content her—the independence of Ireland.

Why should it frighten us? Why is England the only country that dare not live side by side with a free people? If the French were a little people, I suppose we should be arguing the same way, declaring that we must conquer France and hold her down, because she happens to be only twenty miles from Dover. We should recall her past history, all her acts of aggression against us, all her threatenings, her unfriendly allusion to 'perfidious Albion,' the centuries of misunderstanding and mutual dislike. Can we allow a country as near to us as France to assert her independence? So it would be urged. What a jumpingoff ground for our enemies! Why, her guns from Calais could rake our coasts. Our merchantmen could no longer ride the English Channel in security. Sorry. Any little thing we can do to make the French people happy and contented we will out of our generosity consider. Frenchmen shall be represented even to the excess of their due in our Parliament at Westminster. We will even allow them to organize societies for the preservation of the French language. The English Castle in Paris shall rule them justly, as is our good English way. French peasants shall be paid high wages for serving in the (English) Royal French Constabulary and shall help England to maintain order over Frenchmen. But that France should be allowed her own Government, her own Parliament, to rule herself! The thing is unthinkable. Home Rule, as regards