

## ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE IRISH HOME RULE MOVEMENT.

Power at thee has launched  
His bolts and with his lightnings smitten thee :  
They could not quench the life thou hast from Heaven.

—Byron.



At the present moment we behold the eyes of the world turned towards the Emerald Isle. The nations are watching to see the fast approaching end of one of the greatest political struggles in the history of mankind. The Grand Old Man, England's Prime Minister, holds the wand of power in his hand, and is now pronouncing the fiat of Ireland a nation. Before his august figure the enemies of human liberty have withered and fallen. England's millions, with the world, have awakened and now recognize the justice of Irish demands. The British Liberals have at last, one and all, fallen into line, and Ireland's resurrection is at hand. What has caused this change? What is the secret of Ireland's success? Can it be that after the failure of numberless efforts of the most valiant of heroes on the bloodiest of battle-fields to grasp the prize of freedom for their native land.—after all this—can it be that a new and more successful means has been found to cope with tyranny; and still more, is it possible that a people, impulsive as the Irish are, have adopted it, and have at last found that glorious victory is perched upon their banners? Yes, and this universal adoption of the constitutional plan of warfare by the Irish masses is the secret of Ireland's success. This is the plan that has, against all odds, won over English hearts to the Irish cause. The Home Rule movement has united and strengthened Ireland's millions, and has at last enabled them to wield a power under which the might of their tyrants must quake and fall.

Let us for a moment glance back across the dark and dreary past and endeavour to trace out a few of the principal causes that brought about such a happy change. First of all, however, let us say that it is to

the good Providence that rules the world that we attribute this happy consummation of the Irish struggle. The Irish have had their day of probation, and we believe, they have stood it well. Their faith is to-day as strong as it was in the days of St. Patrick. Truly have we reason to feel proud of this. Their standard of morality is the highest of any among the nations of the world, and their love for national freedom is such that ages of oppression has failed to diminish it in the least. Then surely we must deem a people who have thus through long centuries of persecution so well preserved their faith, their love of virtue and their national aspirations, worthy of being raised by the God of nations to their place, among the powers of the earth. Nor did the sons of St. Patrick ever despair of the goodness of their God. Though at times in the past the world seemed to regard their aspirations as the dreams of men more patriotic than practical, the Irish themselves could never be persuaded to doubt of a future era of national freedom, and ever worked, watched and prayed for it. And the great God, whom they adore so well, is mindful of justice to nations as well as He is of justice to men.

Let us now look back to history and see how it came about that the policy of the sword was abandoned, and the new and more successful plan of parliamentary agitation was adopted. It is needless to say that it was not the terrors of warfare, among such a people, struggling for liberty, that caused such a change. If any one would imagine this, let him but for a moment glance back over the pages of history wherein are recorded the stories of Brian the Brave, of the immortal O'Neils and numberless others even in '98, '48 and '67; let him, if he can, find a single foreign battle-field in modern times either in Europe or America, aye, or even in Asia or Africa, or under the burning sun of Hindostan where Irish blood was not