

and unable properly to appreciate the good that is offered them. It may take time to convince such people, but it is better to spend time than to use force. It seems almost axiomatic to say that all great constitutional changes to be effective and successful must take place with the hearty concurrence and good will of those affected. The world has changed and the old time notion that constitutional changes can be forced on an unwilling people is one that belongs to past days of tyranny and oppression, and is absolutely opposed to those principles of freedom which the British people have been so long and so laboriously elaborating.

It is therefore somewhat surprising to find that there can be an intention to force on a reluctant people a change in their political status which they, for some reason, whether good or bad is immaterial, detest and abhor. What prospect of happiness and prosperity could there be for the successful carrying out of a political system which is inaugurated in such circumstances?

It would seem that so far persuasion has failed in the Ulster problem and so, without more ado, the bludgeon is to be called in to crack heads which refuse to accept arguments. This is as we say, from the modern standpoint, an altogether new method of bringing about political changes and with all due respect to those who favour the method it appears to us to savour rather of a past age of barbarism, than of the more enlightened civilization of the present day. It is the Procrustean conception. The patient does not fit the bed and forthwith his legs must be chopped off to make him fit.

A somewhat unexpected denouement has developed from this determination to adopt the bludgeon method. It now appears that he who wields the bludgeon unexpectedly turns out to be made of flesh and blood, and is not a mere machine obedient to the will of the forceful legislator. Soldiers are supposed "not to reason why, theirs but to do and die," and this unexpected development of a reasoning faculty in that which was supposed to be a mere machine has proved to be somewhat disconcerting to those who desire to use physical force to effect political ends.

It is perhaps fortunate for the British people that the wielders