

minations which equally demonstrate their efficiency in the same field of action. As a matter of fact the United States Government is prepared to do this. A recent, well-authenticated report makes it clear that the President, or rather the War Department, has officially approved of the Knights of Columbus as an agency for work among Catholics, placing it on an equal footing with the Y.M.C.A. To come back to New Zealand again: If the funds and the support granted to the Y.M.C.A. by the authorities here are granted, not because it is a Protestant organisation, but solely because of its efficiency, then, as in the United States, the Government must be prepared to support other organisations, no matter of what denomination, providing that they are efficient agencies for social and physical work among the men. If the Government of New Zealand does not do this it is acting unjustly towards the general public and towards the various denominations which are doing perhaps just as good work among the men as is done by the Y.M.C.A. Similar organisations are controlled by the Anglicans, by the Salvation Army, and Catholics have the Federation, which from the very beginning has done splendid work among the soldiers. When Sir James Allen extends to all these the same patronage as he has extended to the Y.M.C.A. the public will have no reason to complain: until he does this we have every reason to accuse his department of showing unwarranted favor, at the public expense, to a sectarian organisation.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

DOMINION HOME RULE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, According to the leading article in the *Tablet* of July 26, Mr. George Russell's proposed scheme of Home Rule for Ireland embodied in "Thoughts for a Convention" presents a bold plan for the solution of the question on the lines of "full" Colonial self-government. With your permission I should like to say a few words on this question with the object of showing that there is no reasonable probability that the British Government will be in favor of a settlement on these lines. Although in matters of this nature the boldest plan is sometimes the best (witness the case of South Africa), the English temperament seems instinctively to favor a middle course. They seem to act on the maxim of Edmund Burke, that "all good government is built on compromise."

Let me begin by pointing out that Colonial self-government would virtually (though not theoretically)

mean Repeal of the Union—that form of national independence which has always been the ideal of Irish patriotism. Grattan's Act enacted "the right claimed by the people of Ireland to be bound by laws enacted by his Majesty and the Parliament of that Kingdom [Ireland] in all cases whatsoever . . . shall be, and is hereby declared to be, established and ascertained forever," and this was solemnly agreed to in the English "Renunciation Act." Under this Act the English Parliament had no power to legislate for Ireland. Under the various Colonial Acts the Imperial Parliament retains this power, but never, of its own accord, exercises it.

With such a government as is possessed by each of the free dominions, Ireland would have (to a certain extent) a voice in the making of peace and war; it could have its own army and navy; it could levy taxes on all exports and imports; it could give bounties to nascent industries. In practice (as opposed to the

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