

the Mormons decided on October 6, 1890, to discontinue the practice of bigamy, and that it has been discontinued since then. According to the *Liverpool Catholic Times*, however, accounts, published by the press, of interviews with women who have been approached by Mormon missionaries do not harmonise with these assertions. 'They are, says our contemporary, 'to the effect that inducements both to emigration and bigamy have been held out by Mormons in quest of recruits; and that they truly represent what actually takes place is strongly maintained by Mr. Hans P. Freese, who has come to this country on behalf of the International Council of Women of the United States to call attention to the proselytising efforts of the Mormons.'

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The present agitation against Mormonism in England is being carried on by members of the Protestant denominations—not because Catholics are not in entire sympathy with it, but because so far it has been found that the Catholic womanhood of the country is proof against the propaganda. To Catholics who are well grounded in the Church's teaching regarding the sacredness of marriage, the polygamist programme of Mormonism makes no appeal. Some time ago, in an article dealing with the success of the Mormon missionaries in winning great numbers of domestic servants to their ranks in the eastern cities of America, the *New York Sun* paid this splendid tribute to the sturdy faith of Catholic girls: 'In no instance yet heard of has a Catholic been influenced, even by the glowing promises of an independent home and a husband.' And Irish Catholics, in particular, appear to have a rooted and instinctive antipathy to the cult. 'It is a noteworthy fact,' said a secular paper on one occasion, 'that in Utah there is not one Irish Mormon.' Whereupon a Catholic contemporary commented in this wise: 'A black diamond, a white swallow, a red snowflake are sometimes met with, and a yellow aster is not unknown, at least to novelists. But an Irish Mormon! Never!'

IRELAND AND HOME RULE

THE WORKING OF AN IRISH PARLIAMENT

SOBER WORK AND PRACTICAL DISCUSSION

Interviewed by Mr. W. R. Holt, for the *Daily Mail*, Mr. John Redmond said: 'I believe the working of an Irish Parliament would be a great surprise to the people of this country. It would be very unlike what they anticipate. There would be a great deal of sober business and very few fireworks. In a sense there would be less politics than at present. Every election in Ireland is now fought upon a question of high and almost abstract politics. Whether Ireland shall govern herself or whether she shall be governed by Great Britain. Even county and municipal elections turn often upon that. Once you get Home Rule that question disappears. Men will divide according to their respective ideas, not as to whether Ireland shall govern herself, but as to how she shall govern herself. The questions arising will be concrete, such as: Shall the railways of the country be nationalised or shall they not? How much money can profitably be spent on drainage? And how best shall our educational systems be brought up to date? These are matters upon which the Irish nation would be divided. But the division would not coincide by any means with the present lines of cleavage. No doubt the first Parliament elected in Ireland would be elected more or less on the present lines. People would vote according to their previous associations. This applies both to the North and to the South. But in the North and South alike there are very strong political elements which at present have little Parliamentary representation. Belfast and the district around it are far more Radical than any other part of Ireland; yet the Radicalism of the industrial North does not make itself adequately felt in the present House of Commons any more than the elements of Conservatism present in the South and West.'

Number of Members.

'What do you suggest should be the size of the proposed Irish Parliament?'

'This is quite an open question, but I would like to see the present number—namely, 103—increased, and in that increase a chance would be found for bringing in the new elements without sacrificing old claims. Under present conditions no business man and no professional man can represent an Irish constituency and do his Parliamentary work efficiently without injuring his business or his profession. That, of course, is for mere geographical reasons: the time occupied in travelling from Ireland to London and the isolation of one from the other. Yet everybody in Ireland would like to see more business men in our representation, and we should undoubtedly get them. We should get them from Dublin, we should get them from all the big towns: for Cork is little more than four hours distant from Dublin, and Belfast less than three hours; and I do

not suppose our Irish sessions would be so long as the sessions in England—certainly not so long as they have been of late. Proportional representation has been suggested in a remarkable letter from Lord Courtney. The end which Lord Courtney desires I desire and we all desire. We want a thorough representation of all the elements of Irish life. Whether the machinery he suggests is the best way to attain this end I am doubtful; but if I were sure that proportional representation were the best means of securing an adequate political influence for the Unionist minority in the South and West I should support it.

Work of the Country.

'You may take it from me that the Irish people ardently desire to see the Irish gentry—I use an old-fashioned word, for we are an old-fashioned folk—devoting themselves to the service of the country. Let me give you a proof. In the eighties no landlord fought more vehemently against the Land League than Mr. Kavanagh, of Borris. He was in a sense the leader of the landlords and the ablest man amongst them; the representative of one of the great old Irish families and a Protestant. His son inherited his interest in politics, and began life, naturally, as a Unionist. He contested a seat as a Unionist. Gradually he found himself losing sympathy with a policy which involved hostility and distrust towards the mass of his own people. He let his opinions become known, and almost immediately the people of County Carlow made him chairman of their county council. They afterwards sent him to the House of Commons as a member of our party. Mr. Kavanagh was as good a Home Ruler as I am. He agreed with us entirely on the land question, but he had Conservative and Protectionist leanings. He left us at the end of the 1906 Parliament simply and solely because he was afraid that the exigencies of our party might force him to vote against his views on the Budget. Now, men like Mr. Kavanagh—able men, educated men, with a large stake in the country, would undoubtedly be chosen to represent Irish constituencies, and the question of religion would never arise. What has kept them out of public life hitherto has been not their religion but their opposition to the principle of Home Rule. Once an Irish Parliament is established that difference disappears, and I am certain that men of Mr. Kavanagh's type would be as welcome in the Irish Parliament as he was in the Irish Party. There are a great many men of this type who, unlike him, are divided from us for the present, and, as I believe, only for the present, by acute political differences, but who are still held to Ireland by a strong attachment to the country and to the people. I should hope that Home Rule would greatly increase the attractiveness of life in Ireland for men of that type. Think, for instance, what it would mean for Dublin. Since the Union Dublin has almost sunk into the position of a provincial town. Once it was a real metropolis, a real centre of national life, such as are the minor capitals within the German Empire. It has been a great part of the strength of the German Empire that it has decentralised the social life of the country, so that instead of having, as in these islands, one overgrown capital and a number of provincial towns, they have several highly organised centres. Generally speaking, the urban life and interests of Ireland are insufficiently developed, and are not adequately represented in Parliament. That is one of the evils which, I hope, we might cure under Home Rule, and that is an object which would have to be borne in mind in any scheme of redistribution or increased representation.

State Railways.

'Another paramount object for any Irish Parliament would be the development of the industrial centres of the country. Already Irishmen of all parties are working together for this end, and with very considerable success. We should hope that a native Parliament would find means to give a new impetus and a new power to that industrial revival. Such a question as the nationalisation of the railways would naturally be considered as a possible means towards this end. I do not say that Ireland would be united in favor of such a project; but cleavage of opinion would not follow the existing party lines; and the moment such questions were raised they would affect the return of members to the Parliament. Irish constituencies would be anxious to secure, so far as they could, the services of business men, and especially captains of industry, to assist in the settlement of such problems. That could not fail to produce a considerable effect upon the personnel of the Irish Parliament sooner or later, and I should say sooner rather than later.'

'Would payment of members be approved as part of the scheme?'

'I think we should all be in favor of payment of members out of the State funds, but that is a question which the Irish Parliament should be left to settle for itself.'

'What exactly would be the limits of power of the Irish Parliament?'

'I have stated it many times before; but, if you wish, I shall do so again. The Irish Parliament would be charged with the management of purely Irish affairs—land, education, local government, transit, labor, industries, taxation for local purposes, law and justice, police, etc.—leaving to the Imperial Parliament the management of all Imperial affairs—Army, Navy, foreign relations, Customs, Imperial taxation, and matters pertaining to