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LORD BEACONSFIELD A HOME RULER.

IN the *North American Review* for December, 1888, the HON. EDWARD PIERREPOINT, AMERICAN MINISTER IN LONDON when Lord Beaconsfield was Prime Minister of England, writes an article, from which *it clearly appears that the late leader of the Tory party was a Home Ruler!*

Here are some extracts from this remarkable article :—

“ On the 22nd of December, 1877, I had a conversation with Lord Beaconsfield about the Irish Question. I thought it so important that I made copious notes of it in my diary, by referring to which I am able to produce it substantially. He said that the government of Ireland was likely to cause much trouble before long, and that the agitation of the question might be felt in America; that Ireland demanded a voice in the management of her local affairs, and a redress of many grievances which would have to be considered. I asked him if he had any plan for the better government of Ireland. He said :—

“ No perfect plan, but a general idea that if he had to deal with the situation *he should propose to place Ireland in a similar relation to the Imperial Government that New York holds towards the Federal Government—differing in many particulars, on account of the different conditions, but in the main similar.*’

He added :—

“ *The fear that many express, lest in that case Ireland would become independent, I consider groundless—your war has settled that; even several great States combined could not maintain a confederacy independent of the Union.*’

“ I remarked that I had lately read his statement ‘ that imagination was quite as important in the government of nations as reason.’ ‘ Yes,’ he replied, ‘ I daresay that many will embrace this view; people generally think that the office of the imagination is to make rhymes and write fancy tales. Great Metaphysicians do not think so. *Cromwell undertook to govern Ireland in the “ blood and iron” way, out failed.*’

"I replied, 'But he brought peace, did he not?' He said, 'Yes, *the peace of death*. The rule of Charles the First was better. The Irish are susceptible to kindness and full of sentiment—not logical, and inconsiderate of the means necessary to gain desired ends, but *easily governed if dealt with in the right way*. The great difficulty about the adoption of any plan for the home government of Ireland is that Ulster and the other Protestant portions of the island fear that if Ireland were made a State like New York her legislation would be oppressive to the Protestants.'

"I replied, 'Do as we do in America. Divide Ireland into two States as we divided Virginia. Of Ulster and Leinster make one State, and of the remainder of the island another. Each State being then absolutely independent of the other, and both subject to the Imperial Power—as in the United States—no oppressive legislation of the kind feared would be possible.'

"*He was more than courteous towards my suggestion*, and said that perhaps he might live to give me credit for it. *I have often thought, since the Irish Question has assumed such large proportions, that if Lord Beaconsfield had lived in the full possession of his eminent faculties for dealing with difficult situations, the Irish problem would be solved.*"

LORD ROSEBERRY, speaking at Scarborough on the 23rd of January, 1889, confirmed Mr. Pierrepont's revelation, as follows:—

"Now of that conversation I knew some time ago, but I knew of it in a way that did not allow me to quote it in public; but Mr. Pierrepont is a man of absolutely undoubted veracity. You may take it for granted that every word and every syllable of that conversation is correct."

Tory "Unionists" ought to reflect on this revelation when they hear their present leaders raising, or echoing, the parrot-cry that Home Rule means separation and religious persecution, and cannot be granted. If Lord Beaconsfield were alive now, Home Rule would in all probability be an accomplished fact, amidst the applause of Great Britain as well as Ireland.

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