

1-1-1880

Home Rule of the Great Preservative of Empire

Unknown

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/irish_publications

Recommended Citation

Unknown, "Home Rule of the Great Preservative of Empire" (1880). *Irish Studies Publications*. 62.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/irish_publications/62

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Irish Studies at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Irish Studies Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

Home Rule the Great Preservative of Empire.

It is said that to give Home Rule to Ireland would break up the Empire. To those who put forward this absurd contention the following facts may be commended—

1. At the present moment there are already no less than twenty-four Home Rule constitutions actually existing in various parts of the world under the British Crown.

Here is the list of the self-governing British dependencies :—

WITH NATIVE LEGISLATURES AND RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVES.

Dependencies.	Square Miles.	Population.
Canada, ...	3,470,392 ...	4,324,810
Newfoundland, ...	40,200 ...	185,000
Cape Colony, ...	199,406 ...	811,450
New South Wales, ...	310,700 ...	921,268
New Zealand, ...	104,027 ...	572,132
South Australia, ...	903,452 ...	312,718
Tasmania, ...	26,215 ...	130,514
Victoria, ...	87,884 ...	973,403
Isle of Man, ...	220 ...	53,558
Jersey,	} 75 ...	87,702
Guernsey,		
Alderney,		
Sark,		

WITH NATIVE LEGISLATURES AND EXECUTIVES RESPONSIBLE TO IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Bahamas, ...	5,450 ...	43,521
Bermudas, ...	20 ...	14,888
Guiana, ...	109,000 ...	252,186
Leeward Islands, ...	622 ...	119,545
Windward Islands, ...	794 ...	311,413
Natal, ...	21,150 ...	424,595
Ceylon, ...	26,364 ...	2,759,738
Cyprus, ...	3,584 ...	186,173
Western Australia, ...	1,057,250 ...	33,000
Malta and Gozo, ...	117 ...	149,782

Has the establishment of all those Home Rule constitutions injured the Empire? It is notorious that the Empire has never been so strong or united as it has been since those various dependencies were allowed to manage their own affairs in their own way. Why should Home Rule in Ireland have a different effect?

2.—The Case of Canada is particularly remarkable.

That country at first got a sham Home Rule, such as some "Liberal Unionists" would give Ireland, and the result was :—

[Turn over.

- (1) Agitation, carried on by monster meetings on Sundays, at which the government was denounced, and the people advised to organize and to boycott English manufactures;
- (2) Treasonable conspiracies, which the Canadian juries refused to declare illegal;
- (3) Boycotting of, and attacks on, the so-called "loyal minority";
- (4) Outrages on man and beast;
- (5) Coercion on the part of the government; and
- (6) Rebellion and civil war, in the course of which much blood was spilt on both sides.

But after all this, Canada got real Home Rule, and the result was that the whole country became tranquil and loyal, and has remained so ever since, and the two parties in the country which had hated each other so much, are now, and have for a long time past been, working together in peace for the common good! Why should not the same thing happen in Ireland?

3.—The same thing has occurred in other parts of the world.

Norway and Sweden were perpetually quarrelling with one another till each began to govern itself; and Hungary was perpetually in rebellion against Austria till it too got Home Rule. Home Rule in all those cases put an end to all differences between the countries concerned; why should it have a different effect in Ireland alone?

But it is said by the so-called Unionists that the United States and Germany are examples to the contrary. Those countries, it is said, fought for "National Unity." They did; but they did not fight against Home Rule for the separate states of which they are composed, as the following facts show.

1.—Not one of the German Principalities which came together in 1870 was deprived by Bismarck of its separate existence and separate legislature. There is one Imperial Parliament for Germany; but there are also separate Home Rule Parliaments for Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Hesse, Baden, and the other German States; and it is this wise determination not to meddle with the local German parliaments and institutions that has proved the strength of the German Union.

2.—In the American Republic there are no less than thirty-seven Home Rule Parliaments and Home Rule Executives; and after the civil war peace was never re-established in the Southern States of America till the Home Rule which they had enjoyed before the war was restored.

Why should Home Rule be bad for Ireland when it has succeeded everywhere else? Why should it be bad for the British Empire when it has proved of advantage not only to that same Empire in twenty-four other parts of the world, but to every other Empire where it has been demanded by the people?

PRINTED BY

R. D. WEBB & SON, 74 ABBEY-STREET, DUBLIN,
AND

PUBLISHED BY THE IRISH PRESS AGENCY,

St. Margaret's Offices, Victoria-street, London, S. W.