

it appeared to him, was would Home Rule endanger the safety or welfare of Great Britain. If that could be proved, it would be folly to grant Home Rule to Ireland; but for the life of him he could not understand how any reasonable man could imagine that granting Home Rule to Ireland would be any possible menace to Great Britain or the Empire. Ireland had not the slightest desire for separation or for independence. Irishmen were certainly not fools; and they realised that separation would leave them impotent as a nation; while the notion that Ireland could show practical hostility to England was too absurd to require refutation. By destroying England, the Irishman would at the same time destroy his best market. He really did not know on what grounds anyone could suppose that an Irish Parliament would not be able to manage the affairs before it with decency and dignity, but even if they did misbehave themselves, why should anyone else be concerned about it? There would no doubt be difficulties experienced for a few years. The Irish people could not be expected to get right in a day after all the effects that

**So Many Centuries of Persecution**

and had government had produced upon the national character. He was, however, firmly convinced that those difficulties would not last for very long. He considered that there would be a very strong Conservative element in an Irish Parliament. He used the word 'Conservative' not in its Party, but in its higher sense. A large measure of self-government was necessary for Ireland, to

satisfy the intense desire for a distinct recognition of a distinct nationality. He thought it was necessary for the welfare of Great Britain and for the consolidation of the Empire that there should be a United Kingdom—not a union maintained almost by force, but by affection. We had tried for 700 years to assimilate the people in Ireland, to convert the Irish into Englishmen, and we had absolutely failed. It now seemed rather impracticable not to try and experiment in other directions; for other measures had succeeded in the Isle of Man, in the Channel Islands, and in Canada. Why on earth they should not try the same process in Ireland he defied anybody to say. In the interests of Ireland, the interests of the United Kingdom, and the future interests of the Empire, he thought Ireland should be given as large a measure of self-government as possible, subject of course to the final supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. His Lordship declared in conclusion that he certainly agreed with every word in the resolution.

Right Rev. Thomas Bonacum, Bishop of the diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska, died in that city on February 4. Bishop Bonacum was born in County Tipperary, and went to America at an early age. He was theologian to the third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884. Dr. Bonacum was the first Bishop of Lincoln, and was consecrated in 1837.

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