

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji.

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# HISTORY

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# IRISH PEOPLE.

BY

W. A. O'CONNOR, B.A.

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# PREFACE.

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TO FRANCIS W. NEWMAN, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE, LONDON.

Dear Mr. Newman,

I do not offer this dedication to you as a tribute of friendship, nor on a calculation of reflected literary fame, but rather because, differing from each other widely in country and creed, we are united in the assertion of principles without which religion and patriotism are dangerous in the very degree that they are sincere.

The Irish difficulty must be settled by the English party of progress. All the attempts to hinder this consummation, by whomever they are made, and in whatever form they appear, come ultimately from the enemies of both countries.

Organised Christianity has made for itself out of the deadliest vapours of earth a doctrinal heaven, from which it looks complacently on all human wrongs. Abjuring merit, it reprobates Ireland. The lever that can move it must be planted on a secular fulcrum.

I have come to those two conclusions unexpectedly, and avow them unwillingly; but in proportion to the force of the reasons that overcome my prepossessions must be the distinctness of the avowal.

Some persons, not indisposed to act fairly towards Ireland, are of opinion that it is inexpedient and unnecessary to revive or make known the history of the past. Concessions that are not acknowledged reversals of an evil policy are acts of impatience, not of justice, and convey by the manner of their bestowal a charge of unreasonable agitation. The



tone of haughty superiority that prevails between rival nations should have no more right to exist in England towards Ireland than in Lancashire towards Yorkshire.

The first thing to be done is to substitute in the national conscience and in all public utterances the necessity of a real and willing union with Ireland, for the necessity of a mere union. When this position is taken, the end is in view and almost gained. I am sure you are ready to take it, and that you represent a large and increasing body of Englishmen.

I am, dear Mr. Newman,

Sincerely yours,

W. A. O'CONNOR.

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