

IT COULD BE BREXIT THAT FINALLY GETS THE BRITISH OUT OF IRELAND.
IRISH TIMES. Published on-line April 23, 2019. --Robert F Lyons, Kennebunkport, Maine

RE: [Brexit lights touchpaper for next political firestorm – Irish unity.](#)

IT IS IRONIC that the Brexit deliberations which ignited the slow-burning paper of the “next political firestorm – Irish unity” resume on the eve of the 850th anniversary of the arrival of Strongbow and his Anglo-Norman forces in Co Wexford, May 2nd, 1169.

As the British parliament continues its fractious Brexit debate, Trinity College, in an impressive display of prescient timing, will host a national symposium, [Invasion 1169](#), May 2nd to 4th on this “single most formative event in Irish history.” By setting foot on Irish soil, “Henry II formally brought the island under the lordship of the English crown, a constitutional relationship that endures to the present day in the case of Northern Ireland.” A panel of world experts will discuss its aftermath.

Although it remains to be seen if “Brexit will hasten the dawn of a united Ireland”, May 2019 may go down as the 2nd most decisive month in the shared history of Ireland with the United Kingdom as it struggles to shrink itself and become just another free-standing island nation with a fragile tentacle clinging to six counties across the Irish Sea.

Seamus Heaney reminds us, that “No poem or play or song can fully right a wrong inflicted or endured” (Cure at Troy), but it would come as no surprise to think it could be Brexit that finally gets the British out of Ireland. Only then will “The longed-for tidal waves of justice rise up, and hope and history rhyme.”