

IRISH TIMES

December 7, 2017

POWER OF IRELAND: CHURCHILL: “THE IRISH ARE AN ANCIENT RACE.”

Sir, – The shade of Winston Churchill must be chortling if he read, “for the first time in 800 years, Ireland is proving to be in a much stronger political position than Britain, and what does that say about what Brexit is doing to Britain’s strength?” ([Fintan O’Toole, Opinion & Analysis, Dec.5th](#)).

Churchill wrestled with the same issue of Ireland’s power after negotiating the Anglo-Irish Treaty when he asked, on December 21st, 1921: “How is it that the English political parties are shaken to their foundations and even shattered in almost every generation by contact with Irish affairs? Whence does this mysterious power of Ireland come? How is it she has forced generation after generation to stop the whole traffic of the British Empire to debate her domestic affairs?”

Fintan O’Toole’s statement that “Ireland has suddenly become a global superpower” after 800 years was hinted at with prophetic clarity by Churchill nearly a hundred years ago when he said: “Ireland is not a daughter state. She is a parent nation. The Irish are an ancient race.”
– Yours, etc,

ROBERT F LYONS
Kennebunkport, Maine