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Robert Lyons, Kennebunkport, Maine

IRELAND WAGS THE GREAT BRITAIN DOG

Prime Minister Boris Johnson blames the Irish backstop issue – guarantee of no border checks in Ireland - as the tail that wags his Great Britain dog. ([New York Times, Sept. 13](#)). Winston Churchill faced similar issues while trying to negotiate an acceptable treaty to end the Irish War of Independence: “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? How is it she has forced generation after generation to stop the whole traffic of the British Empire to debate her domestic affairs?” (December 21st, 1921).

The possibility of a border around Northern Ireland, “where the people are British, but the cows are Irish”, has sparked a groundswell of support for the six counties of Ulster to join the Republic of Ireland. Ireland with its seamless border would answer Robert Emmet’s plea on the eve of his execution, September 20, 1803: “Let no man write my epitaph [until] my country takes her place among the nations of the earth.”

W.B. Yeats at New York’s centenary celebration of Robert Emmet’s death, foretold: "The nations of the world are like a great organ... And we need not doubt...that the pipe that is called Ireland will once more begin to sound, and that its music will fill the world." After Brexit, the empire of England will sound no more.

Ireland united will eventually take her rightful place among the nations of the earth. As Robert Emmet predicted: "the man dies, but his memory lives."