

busy and active man all his life—each moment of his day had been marked out for its work, and each day had been all too short for his big business and his innumerable engagements. And there he now was in the House of Commons, wandering from the house to the terrace, from the terrace to the smoke room, from the smoke room to the reading room, from the reading room to the library, and at another hour from the library to the tea room; laboriously killing hours of his precious time every day, doing nothing, taking no part in the proceedings of the House except to give a silent vote, as listless and as exiled as if he had been shipwrecked and landed on an uninhabited isle.

"They tell me," he said, "that I am going to get out of this feeling that it belongs to Parliamentary infancy as measles is part of the life of a baby; but I don't know—I don't know." And though he has now been many years in the House of Commons, I don't think he has even yet got over that intolerable feeling of self-reproach and self-dissatisfaction which all busy and energetic men feel in the life of the House of Commons, unless they happen to become a member of the Ministry.

Now I go back to my experience in Paris, and mark the extraordinary contrast. In the French Inter-Parliamentary Committee there were several of what the French called "rapporteurs" of their committee—what we should call the chairman. There was for instance M. Lebrun, who is chairman of the Munitions Committee. Rarely have I heard a speech which produced such a profound impression on a body of trained politicians as the speech which M. Lebrun delivered before our joint committee. It is no exaggeration to say that we all listened spellbound. Yet it was not a speech of moving and passionate eloquence like that of M. Clemenceau; on the contrary it was a plain statement of facts and statistics and figures set forth with perfect simplicity. But it gave such an impression of power, of intimate knowledge, of perfect mastery of events, that we felt in the presence of a great head of a department, and we saw before us as in a drama, the story of France magnificently well-ordered, splendidly, almost perfectly, organized effort to meet the gigantic emergencies of the war.

But the speech of M. Lebrun was only one of several which produced in our minds something of the same effect. The rapporteur of the Aviation Commission, M. D'Aubigne, had given, I was told by M. Franklin-Bouillon, some of the most useful suggestions to the Aviation Department. A senator and member of the Chamber of Deputies laid before us the details of the financing of France as clearly and as fully as if either of them had been France's Chancellor of the Exchequer. M. Moutet, a Socialist deputy, told the splendid story of the French colonies. And so I might go on.

And now mark another and very important point. M. Franklin-Bouillon went through the list of names of the French Committee. And this astounding fact came out, that of the twenty-five members only seven were veterans. France is training her young generation of Parliamentarians so that when the veterans pass out of the service of France, there will be this new army of young reserves to take their places. There is not one member of the two French Chambers who does not belong to some committee; and the committees of the French Chambers are men who have to work, and who do work willingly, energetically and with pride, and also with the satisfaction of knowing that good work in the Committee is the best and surest passport to Parliamentary recognition and Ministerial office. All of them have as much knowledge of the work of their departments as the Ministers who are at the head of them; some even more.

Now my strong conviction is that we ought to adopt the French system, modified perhaps, more modest perhaps—in our own Chambers. I should at once say that in expressing this opinion I speak as an individual, not as member of any British committee. Many indeed of my colleagues take quite a different view.

This brings me to the fact that the House of Commons, and I must add also the House of Lords, contains far more ability than is supposed outside, and that is given to either of them by some ill-informed critics of some journals, where a politician is now regarded as a symbol of incompetence. The real defect of the House of Commons is not the want of good men, but the want of employment for the talents and experience of good men.

The French Commissions have the right to see all the papers of the Departments—including those of the Foreign office; they have the right to summon the Minister before them, and to examine and cross-examine him. This, object my critics, if applied to the British Parliament, would be a revolution. So it would, but we are in a great war; we are fighting for the existence of our Empire and for all the ideals of liberty, justice and nationality, which alone makes life dear to most of us; and I am not frightened by the epithet of revolutionary to any proposal that may help my country in such an hour of crisis. The whole situation is revolutionary and requires revolutionary treatment.

Religious reading is practically the only available antidote for many against the false maxims of the world.—Cardinal Vaughan.

DEATH OF CARDINAL GOTTI

Cardinal Girolamo Maria Gotti died on March 19, at the venerable age of eighty-two. The son of a dock laborer, he was born at Genoa on March 29, 1834, and was ordained priest in 1856. Two years later he became a Carmelite. For some time he taught the sciences with distinction and in 1869 was present at the Vatican Council as theologian to his Superior General. In 1881 he was elected General of his Order and in 1889 was re-elected to this office. In 1892 Leo XIII. recognizing his unusual talents appointed him titular Archbishop of Petra and Intermuncio to Brazil. As a reward for his services in that country, he was created Cardinal in 1895. He was Prefect of the Congregation of Indulgences, and of Bishops and Regulars, and in 1912 he succeeded Cardinal Ledochowski as Prefect of the Propaganda. On the death of Leo XIII. he was prominently mentioned as his probable successor and had many supporters in the Conclave. As a scientist, theologian, administrator, and diplomat Cardinal Gotti possessed talents of the highest order. In the midst of his honors he ever remained the simple and unaffected Carmelite.—America.

JOHN REDMOND

SENDS MESSAGE TO IRELAND'S SONS OVERSEAS

(By Edward Marshall)

London, March 1st.—John Redmond seems to grow no older as the years pass. His hair has whitened somewhat since I knew him, fifteen years ago, but he is as alert and vital as he ever was.

It was in his cheery little office underneath the House of Commons that he gave to me the story I had asked for, the story of old Ireland and this war, a message to Irishmen across the sea that would reach them on St. Patrick's Day.

It was the only place about the historic legislative building by the Thames in which I saw no khaki. Before we went to it with its cheery fire and big, bright window I had watched Mr. Redmond in the lobby of the House, as he sat upon a bench in deep discussion with a wonderful old Irish priest straight from the firing line—not a priest in the trim black regimentals of the Church, but in the grim brown regimentals of the battlefield.

His message must have been important, for he was muddled with the mud of the French trenches, and evidently had come hurriedly from the zone of blood and suffering and death to the peaceful halls of Westminster whence goes the impulse that directs the battle-front.

THE WAR'S MEANING TO IRELAND

"What," I asked Mr. Redmond, "does the war mean to Ireland?"

"It means everything to her," he answered very promptly. "For the first time in her history she is now a self-governing portion of the British Empire, with all her interests bound up in the future of that Empire."

"That any Irish in America should think otherwise amazes me. That any Irish in America should have listened to the propaganda of the enemy astonishes and shocks me."

"The defeat of the Allies would carry ruin, black and utterly complete, to Ireland."

"Ireland is not the Ireland that the fathers of the present generation of Irishmen abroad fled from. During the past forty years the Irish have been given land and free education in all its grades, including university training, has been established very fully."

"To-day local government in Ireland is as fully free as anywhere. Decent living conditions have been assured to all the Irish laboring classes, and finally, now, has come a full measure of Irish self-government in the broadest sense."

"Let the Irish of America remember, when they think the situation out, that a German triumph in this war would most undoubtedly take with it into Ireland a ruthless dispossession of the Irish people from all these hard won advantages."

"They would be dispossessed from their land and would be crushed by war imposts. Promptly there would come an end to all their new-found freedom, all the splendid progress which they have begun to make."

"Those are matters for the Irish of America to consider carefully."

WHAT VICTORY FOR ALLIES WOULD MEAN

"On the other hand," said Mr. Redmond, nodding slowly, "a victory for the Allies must mean assured prosperity and continued and increasing freedom for the Irish, for, although they scarcely could obtain by law a greater freedom than is now assured to them, the effects of educational work now under way will give them, as time passes, the greatest of all liberties—intellectual freedom. Its interruption would put them back where they once were."

"The course which Ireland has followed in this war has almost utterly wiped out all of the old prejudices and misunderstandings which have long existed in some minds with regard to her."

"Nothing is more certain in this world than that Home Rule will remain upon the statute books forever, absolutely unchanged, through all the years to come, save only in the inconceivable event of a real German victory."

"These are the reasons why I feel so strongly when I am informed that

there are some—I trust not many—of my countrymen in the United States whose opinions differ from my own in regard to the large issues of this war."

"I suppose they are not to be very drastically condemned. After all, they have not been upon the spot, as I have. I have been active in the work for Irish freedom for the last forty years and naturally am more familiar with conditions than the men who emigrated a generation since can be."

"Especially it is inevitable that we, who have been here, and working and watching, should be better judges of the situation than the Irish-Americans who have been reported as the leaders in the anti-British movement in the United States. Many of these never saw Ireland and are wholly out of touch with new conditions. They base belief and arguments upon tales and records of conditions which have long since passed into unpleasant story."

MESSAGE TO IRISH OF AMERICA

"My message to these Irish in America is that they should extend to Ireland what Ireland ever has demanded from England—Home Rule—leaving Ireland, of to-day, to decide the questions of to-day as she sees fit and for herself."

"The attitude of Ireland toward this war can be in not the slightest doubt. Every elected public body in the island, without exception, from the highest to the lowest, from the Irish Parliamentary Party, elected by the people, on through all municipal corporations, city councils, has formally declared in favor of the stand which I am advocating, and they have done so freely and without the slightest hint of any manner of coercion."

"No constituency, parliamentary or municipal, in the whole country, would hold out the faintest chance of an election to any man, however great his popularity may have been in other days, (if there were such a man), who would express a view of Ireland's duty in this war different from that which I am now expressing."

AN ABSURD QUESTION

"Is Ireland in favor of the war? The question seems absurd to the mind of any man who is upon the ground and watching actual present tendencies not those of twenty-five years past."

"Official figures show that to-day we have with the colors 145,000 infantry recruited upon Irish soil, without counting Irishmen in the navy, where there are very many, in any of the numerous military branches which I have mentioned."

Nor am I, in this statement, including any officers in all these services, although nearly every officer in every Irish organization is an Irishman."

IRELAND HAS GIVEN HALF A MILLION

"At the present moment we have at the front an entire Irish Army Corp, in addition to the old, historic Irish regiments which were in existence when the war commenced."

"I have made a careful inquiry into the number of Irishmen enlisting in Great Britain and find that of all ranks, in the English and Scottish regiments, there are, at the lowest possible estimate, few, if any, short of 200,000 of them."

"Thus it becomes apparent that we have with our colors, to-day, at least 350,000 Irishmen, and if to these are added the 25% or even 20% of Irishmen in the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand contingents, we find that there can be no exaggeration in the statement that Ireland has given to the service of the Allies a full half-million men."

"And note this fact: every man of this half-million is an absolutely willing volunteer!"

Those are the Irishmen in active service.

"To state the splendid figures of their willingness to fight the Germans leaves the tale half-told, too, for in addition to these men there are in Ireland 26 battalions at present in existence or being raised by voluntary enlistment to supply the wastage in the Irish regiments now at the front."

"There is no hesitancy in Ireland about volunteering for the service of this war. Some of the organizations I have spoken of are actually overflowing, with more applicants than they can care for. A few need filling up, but that is being done with agreeable rapidity."

IS A NATURAL OUTPOURING

"And this, be it remembered, is the natural outpouring of modest for the Allies must mean assured prosperity and continued and increasing freedom for the Irish, for, although they scarcely could obtain by law a greater freedom than is now assured to them, the effects of educational work now under way will give them, as time passes, the greatest of all liberties—intellectual freedom. Its interruption would put them back where they once were."

"The course which Ireland has followed in this war has almost utterly wiped out all of the old prejudices and misunderstandings which have long existed in some minds with regard to her."

"Nothing is more certain in this world than that Home Rule will remain upon the statute books forever, absolutely unchanged, through all the years to come, save only in the inconceivable event of a real German victory."

"These are the reasons why I feel so strongly when I am informed that

the Allies must mean defeat of liberty."

"The whole flower of Irish manhood has sprung to the defence of liberty. In Ireland one will hear no words but those of condemnation or of ridicule or bitter condemnation for these men of Irish blood 3,000 miles away who so lamentably have misinterpreted the sentiment of Irishmen at home, and who so sadly have failed to understand the fact that every issue dear to Irish hearts is included with the aims of the Allies while not one of all of them is found recorded in the German creed."

IRELAND'S FUTURE

I asked Mr. Redmond to forecast Ireland's future.

"After the war has ended in a victory for the Allies," he answered, "I am absolutely sure that the prosperity of Ireland, under the new Home Rule government, will increase by leaps and bounds."

"It must be remembered that Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom which so far, has not suffered materially from the war."

"Ireland is almost exclusively an agricultural country and agricultural prices have been higher, since the war began, than ever they have been before."

"The peasantry of Ireland never have been as prosperous as it is to-day. No doubt there has been an increase in the cost of living, for the Irish people, as a whole, but the rise in agricultural prices, and, therefore, the increase in their incomes has been great enough to far more than offset it."

"This year's harvests have been rich and plentiful. To-day, as compared with the past, there is nothing to be called rural poverty in Ireland."

"In the towns there is practically no unemployment. The great industries, such as shipbuilding, etc., are running at high pressure, while in addition, the new munition factories are working night and day, employing tens of thousands."

INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENT

"Does not this imply an absolutely certain depression after the war, when these factories are shut down?" I asked.

"On the contrary," said Mr. Redmond, "it implies prosperity in days to come, for it means a population trained in an emergency to industry. When the war ends all that training will not be forgotten."

"It means a population newly accustomed to good living. After the war has ended it will never be content to sink into the old conditions."

"Already the government has established in Ireland two national munition factories, one at Belfast, one at Dublin, and though these are still in infancy, owing to delays in machinery delivery, they now give employment at good wages to 12,000 people, many of whom, I am glad to say, are women. In the course of a few weeks this number will be quadrupled."

"In addition to these government factories many private ones have sprung into existence in all parts of the country, stimulated by government orders and assistance. Shells by the thousand are being made in Waterford, in Wexford, in Cork, in Limerick, in Kilkenny, and, indeed, in almost every town throughout the north and south and west of Ireland."

"And not only will these factories train all Ireland to industrial life and effort, but when the war ends Ireland will find herself equipped, as never before, with machinery adapted to the manufacture of almost anything."

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION FOR BETTER

"This predicates what, as must be generally admitted, can be nothing else than practically an Irish industrial revolution for the better."

"I believe the government factories will continue as munition factories, after the ending of the war, but I think the private factories, now devoted to munition manufacture, will very quickly be adopted to such other purposes as may seem wise."

"I am told that the great strength of Germany in the manufacture of munition lies in the fact that before the war her factories were built so that they could quickly be transformed, with little waste, into establishments for the production of war materials."

"Well, Ireland's industrial strength after the war, will lie in the fact that her munition factories have been so constructed and arranged that when the great call for munitions ends it will be possible quickly and economically to convert them into other uses."

"It may surprise the Irish of America to learn that the high explosives factory at Arklow, County Wicklow, is, at this present moment, next to the great Krupp works in Germany, the largest of its kind in the whole world."

"Every week it is producing hundreds of tons of high explosives, and it is interesting to note that the small ships which carry these across the Channel have not been interfered with by the German submarines. They will not be. The other day I learned the reason for this notable immunity."

GERMANS WON'T TORPEDO IRISH SHIPS

"I was informed from a reliable source that the destruction by explosion of one of these small Irish ammunition ships would mean severe destruction for any submarine within a radius of 7 miles."

"This would be due not only to the shock of the explosion and the resultant pressure, but to the vacuum which would be caused by it and its

resultant drag. The nearby submarine, to put it in a term which I have heard used by Americans, would 'get it both ways.'"

"This being true, I think our Irish ammunition ships are pretty safe. It is a pity that some similar means of safety can't be found for the great passenger ships which so often have been prey of German submarines."

IRISH REALLY PEACE LOVERS

"Though the Irish 'love a shindy' when it is right, and though they battle with a valor unsurpassed in this great war, no people in the world hates with a bitterer hatred everything which savors of the curse of militarism."

"The people which hates militarism is a people sympathetic with and anxious to advance the cause of international peace."

"This impulse Ireland, for that matter, shares with England."

"Ireland hopes with unexampled earnestness that through the crushing victory of the Allies militarism throughout Europe may be brought to a full stop forever."

THE VOICE OF LENT

A cry goes up from earth to heaven, A yearning sweet;
Thy children cry to be forgiven,
Low at Thy feet,
Dear Lord, Thy worlds of grace out-
pour,
And lift them up for evermore!

A sharper cry ascends and beats
Against Thy heart,
Whose eager love descends and
meets
Earth's bitter smart—
Its crucifixion cry of Pain,
Its agony of heart and brain.

And some are fallen by the way,
Abased in sin—
By brambles caught, when skies were
gray,
Without, within;
Lord, lift them up, Thy strength is
sweet
Lead on the poor, entangled feet!

The Church bewails her share of
sin,
Her bells ring low;
Through sun and midst and outer
din
Souls softly go,
And, lowly as wet violets, grieve,—
O loving Lord, their prayers receive.

Yea, grace and pity, strength and
power,
We need them all,
Lord, pour them out! Each golden
shower
Awaits our call,
Refresh us, bless us, bending o'er,
And lift us up for evermore!

—CAROLINE D. SWAN

CHRISTIAN UNITY

IMPRESSIONS OF THE GARDEN CITY CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

A lengthy report by Benjamin J. Wells, Ph. D., has been sent out to the religious press in reference to the recent conference at Garden City, L. I., on Christian unity, to which a letter from the Vatican was read.

Bishop Anderson, (P. E.), of Chicago, in his address, said: "The war is making men ask, has Christianity failed? But civilization had never been, was not yet, corporately Christian. Might not a united Church have preserved the peace of the world? Religion was now largely individualistic. There were rich spiritual values in the isolated communions, but their lack of integration was imperiling the realization of the world's need and prayer."

The Rev. Dr. James D. Moffatt, of Washington, Pa. (Presbyterian), in the course of his remarks said: "If they would talk with frankness and mutual confidence of their difficulties they would see them in a new light." He did not expect harmony of belief even in heaven, but he could work together, even with Roman Catholics to realize Christ's purpose, "that the world may believe and know that Thou hast sent Me."

The Rev. Frank P. Manhart, of Selingsgrove, Pa., made the statement that "the churches of to-day have many notes of the Universal Church, but they do not manifest the unity it ought to show in faith and order. To attain this is the great need of to-day, and it is a divine commission."

The Rev. Dr. William H. Roberts, of Philadelphia (Presbyterian), said in part: "There is to-day an open door, for never had there been such a desire for larger fellowship. This desire had a secure doctrinal basis; the world had never been so in touch in all its parts; even the war was giving men a better appreciation of one another and there was an unparalleled advance in the evangelization of the world. The door was open to us because we had not denied Christ's name. Believers ought to move forward, for the open door was a sign of His will. All efforts to close the door would fail. To obedience let them add brotherly love, and to brotherly love patience and courage. Let them realize that they were part of a divine plan, co-workers with God, rejoicing together in the Lord. As yet they could see the plan but dimly, but they believed that one day the Church would be one on earth as it was in heaven."

The declaration adopted by the conference said: "The catastrophe which has fallen upon modern civilization may be hastening the time for a united Church to come forth as one power and with one obedience to

make the rule of Christianity the law of the nations."—Philadelphia Standard and Times.

OBEYING GOD RATHER THAN MEN

When the Church says to-day, as St. Peter said long ago, "we must obey God rather than men," she is not worldly-wise; she is not prudent. Better would it be for her, from the worldling's point of view, to obey men, to render to Caesar the things that are God's. But this is not the Church's way; it never has been, and never will be her way.

Our Divine Lord prophesied while He was yet on earth that His disciples would be persecuted for giving testimony of Him. He forewarned them of the things that would come to pass, of the trials they would have to endure, because of their faith in Him. "They will put you out of the synagogues," said our Divine Master. "Yea, the hour cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doth a service to God." Many and many a time have these words of our Lord been fulfilled in the history of the Church. In the early days they were fulfilled literally, as the martyrologies attest; and in these later days dislike, suspicion, fear is the portion of the Church which Christ founded. And all because the world knows that when it comes to a matter of principle, the Church will obey God rather than men. The world knows that the Church will not waver in her fidelity to the Faith. Other communions may compromise, but the Church will never do so.

And this explains why the Catholic Church is the one picked out for suspicion, hate and persecution. This explains why no other Church but ours is so frequently in conflict with the world. This explains why she is so often attacked in the name of a liberty which is nothing but license. The loyal and instructed Catholic is not puzzled at the spectacle of the Church's persecution, now in one country, and again in another. He knows that she is on the right side. He knows that no matter what specious arguments may be advanced by the forces that assail her; no matter how much fine writing they may do in the press; no matter how strong a case they make out for themselves, their opposition to the Church is opposition to her because she represents a Christian liberty that they are seeking to destroy.

And as the Church in her corporate capacity hearkens to the commands of God, and will not listen to those who speak in opposition to them, so should her children take their stand also against the forces and influences in the life around them that would lead them away from the Church and its precepts. The Church is the voice of God in the world, and Catholics should abide by its laws, reverence its admonitions and faithfully follow its practices. They should avoid sin which is the Church's greatest enemy, and seek to live loyal to the spirit as well as to the letter of her commands. Particularly during this season of Lent should we renew our faith and fervor, and try to be more truly her children than ever before.

—SACRED HEART REVIEW.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURPASS

The following from the Catholic Bulletin will be an enlightenment of Protestants, and impress upon Catholics the excellency of Catholic training:

The Catholic who presumes to disparage the Catholic school would do well to ponder on the following extract from an address by Judge Gimmel (a non-Catholic), of the Chicago court of domestic relations: "The Catholic schools are far superior to the Public schools, because they teach the young the principles of honor, morals, and industry. It isn't the lack of education that makes criminals, nor too much education; it is the neglect of the teaching of morals in the Public schools."

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J. M. FRASER.

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