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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1917

DIVERSE WEIGHTS AND DIVERSE MEASURES

In the Home Rule debate on the seventh of March, Lloyd George by his impudent and cynical volte-face on Home Rule shocked the conscience of the civilized world.

"The one essential."

And yet we have Canadian newspapers professing an exclusive and superior brand of loyalty to the Empire doing all in their power to thwart this settlement by forcing the treason of North East Ulster on decent and self-respecting British subjects as the only basis on which "settlement" may be achieved.

The hoary old lies and shams are marshalled again. "Ulster is irrevocably opposed to Home Rule."

"But there are strange Orange political troglodytes in the North of Ireland, who have never heard of the Russian revolution or of the world war, and they are opposed to this democratic solution. They are, however, prepared to accept county option on terms and have put forward a preposterous proposal which is now being considered by the Prime Minister."

"Their terms are that while exclusion from Home Rule can be carried by a bare majority, inclusion can only be carried by a majority of 55%."

The majority in Tyronne and Fermanagh are in favor of Home Rule. The majority of Ulster are in favor of Home Rule.

Two hundred Congressmen of our new ally, the great democracy of the United States, have made this open profession of faith:

"The Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M. P., London, England: "You are quoted as saying that the settlement of the Irish question is essential for the peace of the world and a speedy victory in the War."

problem in accordance with the principles announced by President Wilson in his address to Congress asking it to declare War on autocracy for the world-wide safety of democracy and of small nationalities.

The President, whose recent pronouncements have been enthusiastically acclaimed, is emphatically in favor of Home Rule, for "governments derive all their just rights from the consent of the governed."

"Coerce" Ulster! Never! Why should "Ulster" be "coerced"? If the Orange "troglodytes" submit to the laws enacted by the will of the overwhelming majority of the United Kingdom there will be no need of coercion.

Ulsteria elevates this abomination into sacred political principle. Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated a simple and self-evident truth when he declared that the "Irish problem has reached a stage where either it must be solved by the British Parliament or the bankruptcy of parliamentary government will result."

THE ROUND TABLE, IRELAND AND THE EMPIRE

A public meeting under Round Table auspices, in Toronto, was addressed by many prominent men, amongst them the Prime Minister, Sir William Hearst, and the leader of the Opposition, Mr. N. W. Rowell.

"The Irish question must be settled before they settle the question of Imperial relations. I think the statesmen of Great Britain must display sufficient statesmanship to solve the Irish problem before we would be justified in putting our destiny into their hands."

In this outspoken, courageous and statesmanlike pronouncement the leader of the Opposition was stating nothing new or sensational. In fact he was simply joining in the myriad-voiced chorus from America, from Australia, from every part of the Empire that is driving into the mind of the British Prime Minister that Ireland, deprived of self-government, bars the way not only to the federation of the Empire but to the whole-hearted prosecution of the War to a speedy and successful issue.

Before these appeals and protests had swollen into the present unmistakable chorus many voices were raised in the same sense. Here is one from the antipodes. J. Clerc Sheridan, Commissioner for Revenue to the Union of South Africa, himself an ardent Imperial Federationist, in the Nineteenth Century for June 1916, writes:

"So the position remains that the Irish question blocks the way to Imperial Federation and unless that question be wisely and permanently settled it will continue to block the way until at last, by causing ever-widening embarrassments, it will force itself into cognizance as an Imperial question. Well, if ever the Dominions have to participate in deciding whether it is right and proper that the Irish should have self-government if they want it, the history and experience of the Dominions will lead them to a speedy and certain affirmative; but their estimate of the Mother Country's capacity for leading in Imperial Federation would be sensibly damaged if they were given any reason to believe that the Mother Country was in any degree herself responsible for the long-continuing failure to settle the Irish question."

This, a year ago, from the other side of the world is strangely like Mr. Rowell's statement at the Round Table a few days ago. And yet it found an honored place in a strongly Imperialist magazine which has in almost every number an article favoring the objects of the Round Table meeting which Mr. Rowell was addressing.

The Globe, an article from which we publish on another page, is strongly opposed to any change in our relations with the Empire that might lessen Canadian control of

the destiny of Canada. We do not agree with The Globe's views in the premises, nor do we assent to all it says in the article quoted. But we feel strongly that The Globe in its outspoken and reasoned opposition is doing a good thing, a necessary thing for Canada, for the Empire, and the best thing possible for honest members of the Round Table movement.

Professor Wrong, President Falconer space, prominent editorial page space, for the Round Table side of the question. The Round Table professes, and we believe sincerely desires, that this educational campaign, this general study of a great problem, should be kept free from entangling alliances with the parties into which we are divided in domestic politics.

The Daily News, on the other hand, charges Mr. Rowell with "going very far indeed at the Round Table meeting in the use of a high Imperial issue for vote-catching purposes."

On May 3, the News, which professes great friendship for the Round Table, in an article purporting to defend the movement in general and President Falconer in particular concludes thus:

"It is insisted that Ulster shall capitulate. But Ulster has emptied itself of men for the Allied cause, while the rest of Ireland has not done nearly so well. The attitude of Nationalist Ireland is such that it has been impossible to apply conscription to Ireland as to Great Britain. Liberal politicians in this country advocate the coercion of Ulster. They demand that while its manhood is away fighting for the Empire, it shall be forced against its will under the rule of that section of Ireland which has done much less for the common cause. The next thing these same politicians and newspapers will demand is that Ontario, having exported its defenders, shall submit to the domination of Quebec, which has shirked its duty in the war, and kept its men at home for selfish reasons. If these journals and political leaders have their way that is just what will occur at the general election which it is now sought to force upon the country. In the absence of 400,000 English-speaking voters, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, French Canada and the alien enemy vote in the West may be able to dominate Ontario and the rest of English-speaking Canada."

Though it may not be known generally, it is well known to President Falconer that the founders of the Round Table movement studiously avoided the terms, "Imperial," "Imperialism," and even to a considerable extent, "Empire."

And the reason? Frankly because Imperialism had been so cheapened, so degraded, so prostituted by flag-waving political mountebanks to the basest partisan purposes that they felt it advisable to adopt another term even though it did not lend itself to the formation of derivatives and necessitated some circumlocution to avoid the discredited terms, "Imperial," "Imperialism" and "Imperialistic."

What follows points its own moral and makes its own lesson clear to those whom we wish to reach in reproducing it:

"I know there are those who denounce unquestioning obedience as a relic of barbarism, and they find in the cause of all the evils of militarism. But we have gone too far the other way. The idea of individualism, which in most cases is the polite name for selfishness and disloyalty and various other ills, has carried us off our feet. It is thriving in the schools because it is the easy, lazy thing for the teacher to let the pupils do as they like. It is thriving in the homes because making children behave is the hardest task ever set for parents."

"I recently had occasion to visit the home of a very well-to-do family for twenty-four hours. There were several young children there. I saw a good deal of them, but never once did I hear one of those children addressed by his or her name. It was Dovesy this and Dovesy that and Owsy Pet and Mother's Little Love and Papa's Precious from morning

LORD ELGIN AND CHINESE MISSIONARIES

In connection with Father Fraser's Mission, the testimony of Lord Elgin as to the contrast between Catholic and Protestant missionaries in China is worthy of being called to the attention of readers of the RECORD. It appears in his "Letters and Journals" by Theodore Walrod, (2nd Edition, London, John Murray, 1873), and is all the more valuable by reason of the prejudice it manifests against the Church on the part of an otherwise fair-minded and singularly gifted statesman. Lord Elgin was at the time engaged in his first diplomatic mission to China.

"Shanghai.—Easter Sunday, (1858).—I have been at Church. In the afternoon I walked to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, which is about three miles from the Consulate. I found a really handsome, or at any rate spacious building, well decorated. The priests were very civil. They count 80,000 converts in this province. It is impossible to help contrasting their proceedings with those of the Protestants. They come out here and spend the whole of their lives in evangelizing the heathen, never think of home, live on the same fare and dress in the same attire as the natives. The Protestants (generally) hardly leave the ports where they have excellent houses, wives, families, go home whenever self or wife is unwell, etc. I passed an American missionary's house yesterday. It was a great square building, situated in a garden and at the entrance gate there was a modest barn-like edifice large enough to hold about twenty sitters, which on inquiry I found to be the Church. These people have excellent situations, good salaries, so much for every child, allowance for sickness, etc. They make hardly any converts, but then they console themselves by saying that the Roman Catholics who make all these sacrifices do it from a bad motive, teach idolatry, etc. I cannot say, but I must admit that the priests whom I met today talked like very sensible men, and that the appearance of the young Chinamen (seminarists) whom I saw was most satisfactory."

DISCIPLINE

In the New York Times Magazine is an interview with William Muldoon, "once a champion wrestler in the ring, but now a philosopher on a hill-top, where he shows men how to wrestle with their weaknesses and win."

"We have lost discipline and control of ourselves and our children. Indulgence is the rule, and the body has been allowed to become a beast. I do not refer merely to the dissolute sons of foolish millionaires, who waste their fortunes and themselves, but also to the undisciplined sons of the poor who waste their opportunities and add to the country's ever-growing total of inefficiency."

"This trouble is not a class affair at all. It is general to the entire country. Lack of discipline is as pernicious in an east side tenement as in a household on Fifth Avenue. Now, this evil which I have just hinted at is something that even the greatness of the United States cannot withstand for many generations. The country has got to sweat itself back to a state of purity."

What follows points its own moral and makes its own lesson clear to those whom we wish to reach in reproducing it:

"I know there are those who denounce unquestioning obedience as a relic of barbarism, and they find in the cause of all the evils of militarism. But we have gone too far the other way. The idea of individualism, which in most cases is the polite name for selfishness and disloyalty and various other ills, has carried us off our feet. It is thriving in the schools because it is the easy, lazy thing for the teacher to let the pupils do as they like. It is thriving in the homes because making children behave is the hardest task ever set for parents."

"I recently had occasion to visit the home of a very well-to-do family for twenty-four hours. There were several young children there. I saw a good deal of them, but never once did I hear one of those children addressed by his or her name. It was Dovesy this and Dovesy that and Owsy Pet and Mother's Little Love and Papa's Precious from morning

till night. And those children were repeatedly pleaded with not to do this or to do that, and if there was a single case of obedience it escaped my attention."

"There was a case of a respectable well-to-do household from which all trace of parental authority had been eliminated. There are many thousands of homes just like it. Can you imagine anything worse for the children in such thousands of homes and can you imagine anything worse for the nation which is depending on such recruits for its citizenship? There is nothing worse. It will be a fatal thing if allowed to go on indefinitely unless the country intervenes somewhere in the course of each man's life to show that man what authority really is."

"Honor thy father and thy mother" imposes obligations on the parents as well as on the children. As depositories of divine authority the fathers and mothers will have to render an account as to how that authority has been exercised.

Read again the words of that vigorous old man of seventy-two whose business has brought him into contact with so many physical and moral wrecks; and remember the first step on that downward path is due to the lack of discipline in the home.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

NO MORE significant event has happened in the United States in many years than the gathering at Washington's Tomb of representatives of Great Britain, France and America. But little more than a hundred years ago these same nations were locked in deadly strife for supremacy in Europe, or for the possession of a continent; now they are joined hand in hand for the overthrow of an autocratic military power, whose continued existence as such would constitute a menace to human liberty the world over.

Mr. BALFOUR's words on the occasion referred to may well be long remembered: "There is no place in the world," he said, "where a speech for the cause of liberty would be better placed than here at the tomb of Washington." Or the tribute of the British mission of which he is the honored head, in laying a wreath upon the tomb: "Dedicated by the British Mission to the immortal memory of George Washington, soldier, statesman, patriot, who would have rejoiced to see the country of which he was by birth a citizen, and the country which his genius called into existence, fighting side by side to save mankind from subjection to a military despotism."

While the authorized representatives of the nations are thus cementing what should prove to be a solid and lasting union of hearts, other individuals are still busy, notwithstanding the War and the existence of the common enemy, sowing the seeds of discord and distrust between the two Americas. Under the utterly mendacious heading, "Latin America calls to Northern sisters," the Toronto Globe publishes a report of proceedings at a meeting of the executive of the General Mission Board of the Methodist Church in Canada. From this heading let the unwary reader might suppose that the people of South America were famishing for spiritual food, and had issued a frantic appeal for assistance to their northern neighbors. A glance at the paragraph below, however, would reveal to him, (what the initiated would know without that formality) that the hungry "missionaries" of that denomination from the United States and Canada

who have for years been making themselves a common nuisance in South America, were running short of funds and were "touching up" their credulous brethren at home for more. Read with knowledge and understanding that is what the "call" means and it casts a curious reflection upon the Methodist conscience that not a single voice is raised in protest from within.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE CANADIAN LINE at Fresnoy holds against the repeated efforts of the enemy to recover the positions north and south of the village, which was captured on Thursday. The big guns are again busy searching out the enemy's batteries in the rear. Until the Drocourt line is reached, about three miles west of Douai, the enemy has no regular trench system, says Stewart Lyon. The German troops shelter from the shells in shallow trenches dug here and there, the main defenses being the chain of villages, where the cellars are converted into underground fortresses manned by machine guns. German casualties in Thursday's fighting were heavier than usual. This was due to the fact that the Germans were massed in the trenches for a big offensive when they were caught in the storm of the British assault.

THE BRITISH STRENGTHENED their hold yesterday in the captured section of the Hindenburg line and fought their way eastward in the enemy's trenches, killing many Germans and taking some prisoners. Heavy fighting took place yesterday in the air. Six German machines were brought down and five others were damaged and forced to descend. Two British machines failed to return.

NINE HUNDRED GERMAN prisoners were taken by the British in Thursday's operations. These included twenty-eight officers.

NORTHWEST OF RHEIMS the French have captured the first line of German trenches along a front of about two and a half miles. Six hundred prisoners were taken. The village of Craonne, on the edge of the Vauclere plateau, also was captured yesterday by the French in their drive on Laon, which is under gage. In addition to Craonne village the enemy was driven out of several points of support. Violent artillery engagements are reported from Champagne, in the region to the south and southwest of Moronvilliers.

THE GERMAN SOLDIERS bread ration has been cut down to a third of its former weight. Some of the prisoners when captured had eaten their emergency rations through hunger, but this may have been due to the British fire, which cut off supplies from the men in the trenches.

THE GERMAN REPORT on the Western front states that the British attacking force comprised sixteen to seventeen divisions. It admits the capture of Fresnoy and the seizure of a portion of their front trenches at Bullecourt, but alleges that the British objective failed. The report also says that British cavalry were massed in readiness southeast of Arras. The Germans claim to have inflicted heavy losses upon the British, and to have taken one thousand prisoners.

THE RUSSIAN PUZZLE. Petrograd, Thursday, May 3, via London, May 5.—Although the sentiment of the workmen and soldiers' council to-night apparently is against extreme measures, unless they are absolutely necessary, every speaker at the meeting emphasized the contention that the power in Russia rests in the hands of the representatives of the workmen and soldiers, and that they are determined to enforce their views upon the temporary Government or immediately dispossess it and construct a Government of their own making.

Petrograd, May 4.—A virtual armistice exists along almost the entire Russian front to-day. Not a shot has been fired on the Austro-Russian front in more than a month. There has been no real activity on the German Russian sector.

At many places Russian and German soldiers are fraternizing, meeting unarmed in No Man's Land.

We are children,—very young children, when one considers the antiquity of this plane and the brief time it has been peopled, and the knowledge we are "babes and sucklings," not yet capable of understanding anything at all about the things which are real and everlastingly worth while. The most we can do now, despite our frequent and furious boasting and all our display, is to let the Divine One guide and lead us, through love, into those paths which will some day bring our undirected children into light and knowledge.