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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1916

WILFRID WARD

The Oxford Movement is ever interesting to the student of history and never-ending in its influence on the spiritual life of England.

In 1844, a year before he was received into the Church, he published a work entitled "The Ideal of a Christian Church considered in comparison with existing practice."

The Oxford authorities condemned Ward's book and degraded the author by taking away his degrees; a proceeding which the recent death of a distinguished convert shows that the great University of Catholic foundation followed in other cases.

W. G. Ward, after he was led into the fulness of truth, ever used his great attainments as a scholar and his remarkable logical acumen as the uncompromising advocate and champion of the Catholic Church.

Thus much of a man who profoundly influenced the intellectual and religious life of England; and whom Tennyson, his friend and neighbor in the Isle of Wight, hailed in verse as the "most generous of ultramontanes." Ultramontane, in every sense of the word, was W. G. Ward.

His son, Wilfrid, was no less uncompromisingly Catholic, but he had a wider range of intellectual sympathy with all schools of thought outside the limits of Catholic truth.

The Dublin Review was founded by Cardinal Newman in 1835 to voice the Catholic claims on the consideration of intellectual England as against the hitherto unrivalled Whig "Edinburgh" and Tory "Quarterly," and which, after his conversion, was edited by W. G. Ward, "the Philosopher of the Oxford Movement."

In the preface of a volume of Essays by his son, Wilfrid Ward, "Problems and Persons," we read: "Most of the Essays here given to the public have appeared in the leading reviews in the course of the past eight years (previous to 1903). . . . Three of them now appear for the first time under the author's own name, having been originally printed in the Quarterly and Edinburgh Reviews."

This marks an interesting development of Catholic influence on the English intellectual life.

We cannot allow ourselves, just now, to recall the rare good things to be found in his Essays. Nor is the volume just mentioned the only one full of interest and information that came from his prolific pen. "Witnesses to the Unseen," "Ten Personal Studies," and "Men and Matters," all are illuminating treatises from a Catholic viewpoint of present-day questions and personalities.

The late editor of the Dublin Review also finds a place amongst the first ranks of great biographers: W. G. Ward, Aubrey de Vere, Wiseman and Newman will many generations hence be recognized as having received adequate appreciation at the hands of Wilfrid Ward.

Barely sixty years old, the great Catholic writer who has just passed away will be sadly missed; yet his achievements have been such that we are sure his great-minded, simple-hearted and saintly father will welcome his illustrious son to the reward of the good and faithful servant.

DOES IT POINT A MORAL?

In the sanest and brightest of Irish publications, Ireland, (18 West 40th St., New York), we read of the death of David Healy.

Now we happen to know something of Dave Healy and we venture to think that our readers will be interested in a little chatty reminiscence of a man who achieved distinction in his work and who is mourned by thousands of the best and most true-hearted of the Irish race in America.

Somewhere about forty-five years ago the writer saw, for the first time, a corpse! and a funeral. A corpse, a human body from which the soul had fled; it was an awesome experience, and it is even yet a vivid memory. "Old Dan Healy," in our limited experience of life, had always been a conspicuous figure and one which it had never entered into our childish minds would disappear.

When the old patriarch died we had a holiday at school for the funeral. There was no hearse; no wagon of any kind; at his own request "Old Dan Healy" was carried on the shoulders of his neighbors to his last resting place. So the old man, who had fought at Vinegar Hill in 1798, was buried. "Dave" was a grandson of "Old Dan."

Another John staid at home to help work the farm. Dave was alone at school and as lonely as a fish out of water. He made up his mind, one morning, to go on down to the village where Murphy was going to school. He wandered in, unkempt, somewhat uncouth, and barefooted, and to the query of the Master as to what he was looking for, he replied: "I am looking for Murphy."

When he was able, he set out again to earn his living. This time he went to Rochester, N. Y. He was working in a livery stable when a very democratic gathering took place to prepare for the celebration of St. Patrick's day. Lawyers and journalists, business-men and humble day-laborers met on the common ground of love for the old land of their fathers.

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lected to the State Congress. The rest of his career we may give in the words of "Ireland":

"A life-long supporter of the Irish cause, and a zealous upholder of the Irish leader, passed away last week in the person of Mr. David Healy, of the United States Immigration Service at Ellis Island. A former member of the staff of the Irish World, he was keenly interested in the success of 'Ireland,' and was one of its first subscribers."

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lish population of Quebec, the clause "so far as the laws of Great Britain permit" was added.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE QUALITY OF patriotism in the Church of France may be appreciated by the intelligence that, wearing the uniform of a private soldier in the Army Reserves, prepared at any moment to take his place in the firing line, is no less a personage than the Bishop of Gay. Mgr. de Llobet, who was previously secretary to Cardinal Cabrières of Montpellier, was consecrated only a year ago, and might well have pleaded exemption from military service by reason of his sacred office.

"THE REAL history of the European peoples," says the Christian World, "is not to be found in Gibbon or Ranke, Mommsen or Macaulay, but in the literature and art they have left us. If you want to know the Middle Ages, turn not to histories, but stand before Chartres, Amiens, Ely and York; read Dante, St. Bernard, 'The Romance of the Rose,' St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis of Assisi; gaze at Cinabue's Madonnas, and the pictures of Giotto, Guido, Ugolino and Deiceia. It is in its art that every age lives for the future, not in its annals."

ANOTHER INDICATION of change in the attitude of the Protestant world to things Catholic may be seen in an article on "The Lenten Fast," in a late number of the Canadian Congregationalist. One need not be very much advanced in years to recall a time when the institution of fasting, and the whole Lenten observance was regarded as the merest formalism and superstition by those outside the Church, and its true character as a period of closer fellowship with the Redeemer of mankind, was entirely lost to them.

OR THIS: "Fasting is the natural expression of intense sorrow for sin. It is the effort of the soul to come into closer fellowship with God. . . . Many people are irreligious because they are so absorbed in the things of this world that they have little time to choose the better part. The Lenten season comes to correct this evil. It helps us to set our affections on things above. It reminds us that we must take time to be holy." We refrain from any comment upon these words, save that if they mean anything they mean that many men and women, long ostracized from their souls' true home, are, as the shadows lengthen, casting longing glances backward, and unrealized by themselves, sighing for return.

A WEEK or two ago we devoted a paragraph to the possibilities of a reversion of the Argyle dukedom into Catholic hands, the reflection being suggested by the inscription on the tombstone of a younger brother of the late Duke, killed in the War. The heir presumptive to the family honors, as was pointed out, is married to a Catholic, and their son is being brought up in the Faith.

What is the conclusion that we are to draw from this? That Catholics have nothing to fear from such men as Murray and Carleton, who defended their rights in trying times; or from such men as Lord Durham, who in later days, by his celebrated report to the British Government, frustrated the selfish designs of that element that we still have with us, who are ever protesting their love of liberty—liberty for no one but themselves. We may also draw this conclusion; that as the War of 1812 was the last real national danger that threatened us, and as the Catholics of Canada were found loyal then, so they will be now; for the best evidence of what a man will do the next time is not what he says he is going to do, but what he did the last time.

could the family honor be redeemed from the many stains upon its annals than by bearing so noble a part in the redemption of Scotland.

FOLLOWING the law of supply and demand, the outbreak of the present War produced a multitude of so-called prophecies, culled from the annals of the past. These were necessarily spurious for the most part, some of them mere distortions, with here and there one possessing some claims to consideration. Among the latter was a celebrated utterance of that simple, holy man, the model pastor, the Venerable Curé d'Ars. In the light of events the prediction, or prophecy, made by him about 1862 deserves more than passing notice.

TO A SIMPLE Lazarist lay-brother who had consulted the Curé as to his vocation, this prediction seems to have been first communicated. We need not here discuss the evidence, either in its favor or against it. That has been pretty well thrashed out in Continental periodicals. But as everything concerning the holy man is of interest, even far beyond Catholic circles, it is worth reproducing, and we give it as it appears in a letter written by Mgr. Perriot, in 1908: "There will be a War with Germany (the War of 1870). The French will mismanage it entirely; they will lose, forfeiting two provinces. Later, there will be another War with Germany which will be better conducted. They will let the Germans push far into France, but they will close in behind them; the enemy will be defeated and of all those who penetrate into France, very few will go back to their country. The French will recover their lost provinces, and a little more."

THE DATE of this letter—that of Mgr. Perriot—as it has been pointed out by one prominent journal means much. The propensity of the mind to be swayed by our inmost sympathies is proverbial. But Mgr. Perriot's letter was written seven years before this war began, hence we may be sure there was no unconscious garbling or twisting of statements to fit them to the actual situation. Besides, as further affirmed, the name of Mgr. Perriot, in his time one of the foremost editors in France, is in itself entitled to the greatest weight, and since he had his information in the first place from one who had known the Curé, the chain of evidence may be said to be pretty well established. Its details we have not space here to reproduce, but read carefully, it produces on the mind a strong impression of reality, and merits, as it is receiving, the serious consideration of the foremost publicists of France. One organ of public opinion, the Etudes, has entered upon a most searching enquiry into the whole subject.

WHILE, THEREFORE, the prophecy or prediction as it stands can be neither definitely accepted or rejected at the present stage, it may be said, at least, to have a strong case, and taking it in conjunction with recent events in both East and West, may in the continual ebbing and flowing of our impressions help to steady public feeling and to cause the French people and their Allies to face the future with a firmer hope of final success. And it may help too to focus public attention upon the simple, holy life of a saint of God, who loved his country and spent himself in its service.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE destruction of British shipping continues at a rapid rate since the resumption of German submarine activity. It is said that Germany has new submarines of an improved type. Concern is expressed in England. Officially it is said that there is no reason for such concern. Readjustment of the merchant marine will make the inconvenience fall on neutrals rather than on England. It is even suggested that neutrals may use the German and other enemy ships interned in their harbours since the War. In any case, the renewed German submarine warfare is disquieting.

The lull in front of Verdun continues so far as infantry attacks are concerned, but the artillery on both sides belches forth many hundreds of tons of metal and high explosives daily. The German guns still search the slopes and crest of Dead Man's Hill. In addition, yesterday afternoon the second line of the French defence west of the Meuse was bombarded. This was undoubtedly intended to prevent General Petain from accumulating and holding large reserves in the positions of the

CATHOLIC LOYALTY AND BRITISH FAIR PLAY

The history of our country reveals two outstanding facts that have a special bearing upon the things that are being said and upon the events that are happening in our day. The first is the fact that the Catholic clergy and laity have always been found loyal in times of national danger, and the second is that the Catholics of this country have always received fair and generous treatment at the hands of those governments, who were truly representative of British institutions.

What Irish Catholic does not experience a thrill of pride when he reads the answer, made by the Catholic Association led by O'Connell, to those who offered them emancipation on the condition that the English government would have the power of veto in the election of Irish bishops? "We will consent," said they, "to no condition that interferes with the God-given rights of the See of Rome." Yet many perhaps are not aware that a similar incident occurred in our own country. When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763, liberty of worship was granted to the Catholics of this country. But, at the instigation of an intolerant section of the Eng-

RURAL SOCIOLOGY

The term is somewhat high-sounding, perhaps, but not inappropriate; and we think many will agree that rural sociology is more important than most of the 'ologies that cumber the curricula of our educational system.

What is it? Something at once very simple and very complex. The tendency of the rural population to drift to urban centres is notorious. The statistics in the case are startling. But there is no need to prove by statistics a patent and widely recognized fact.

Now we have no fault to find with farmers' sons leaving the farm to better themselves. There is not the slightest reason why a farmer's son should be a farmer, more than that a shoemaker's son should be a shoe-