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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1918

ANOTHER ANACHRONISM

In the Saturday Evening Post an article by Carl W. Ackerman on the Omnipotent Five in Germany opens with a reference to a proclamation by which Grand Duke Frederick took over the government of Mecklenburg - Strelitz on the suicide of the heir to the latter principality. From this medieval document the writer quotes in wonderment at the survival in Germany of ancient and outworn forms of government even unto this age of democracy. We subjoin an excerpt from the article :-

The proclamation was duly signed and posted in true feudal fashion, for even in time of war the ancient custom of a great house of German rulers could not and should not be n! Everything was done as it had been centuries ago when there were no direct descendants of a deceased prince. Except for the signature, the proclamation of 1918 might been an original of the year 1518, or 1218, or even centuries before that.

One paragraph especially which stamped the proclamation with this characteristic read as follows:
"In which We Graciously give

Notice to all Subjects that the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg Strelitz will be administered by Us; to Officials and Vassals of Whatever Rank and Station they may be, that You serve the Administrator in inviolable Faith and unresisting Obedience and act at all Times as is fitting for true Subjects and Servants to act towards the Rulers of the Land.'

duke of Germany on February 27, Throughout the proclamation the people, the inhabitants of Meck lenburg Strelitz, are referred to as "servants" and "vassals." After more than three years of war with three fourths of the world it is still posssible for a German ruler to address the people as "vassals."

The astonishing document and the wonder and democratic indignation excited by it struck us as serving admirably to point a moral and adorn a tale—a tale told over and over again so that it no longer excites were told of autocratic Germany : but familarity with the oft-told story detracts nothing from its truth.

Quite recently there was appointed to Ireland a Lord Lieutenant with high and mighty powers. Over this appointment the Irish people had as little control as the people of the German principality over their new

appointee varies, but nothing else.

"WE GIVE likewise to the said John Campbell, Earl of Aberdeen, Our Governor General, power and authorto give such Orders and directions to the Commander of Our Forces for the time being within Ireland as he our Governor General may judge necessary for the support of the Civil Authority, the collection of Our Revenue, the protection of our loving subjects and the defence and security of Ireland, and for the suppression of tumults and insurctions and of all traitorous and rebellious practices within the same, and by these Presents. We give him power and authority using and exercising within Ireland if need shall be martial law in cases where by the Laws of Ireland it may be exercised.

'AND ALSO substituting, assigning and appointing under him within Ireland by our letters patent to be made under our great seal of Ireland such and so many Marshalls, Com-missaries and other officers to exerdoing and performing by himself or other persons all other things which

Of this "astonishing document" may we not also say, "except for the signature, the proclamation of 1918 year 1518 or 1218 or even centuries before that."

It is true that the Lord Lieutenant does not usually exercise his powers to appoint "such and so many Marshalls, Commissaries and other Officers to exercise and to execute Martial Law." But in Ireland there are no democratic safeguards that he Life of our Europe as developed may not and does not set aside at then, its chivalries, courtesies, will. The ancient liberties secured humors, ambitions, what practical by Habeas Corpus and Trial by Jury
way of thinking, acting, looking
the world, men then had. As are not part of the fundamental law Homer we may still construe Old in Ireland. There is an "Irish" Greece Habeas Corpus Act (21 and 22 George Dante, after thousands of years, what III) which practically suspends this ancient right and substitutes the and Practice, will still be legible. ancient right and substitutes the Dante has given us the Faith or soul; will of the Lord Lieutenant. Then Shakespeare, in a not less noble there is a Crimes Act (1887) which has given us the Practice or body. puts Trial by Jury into cold storage chooses to exercise his more than as the servants and vassals" who have fought an honorable and open battle for the principles of modern democratic government

tutional Law, University College immediately self-evident, becomes in-London, writes:

"The Lord Lieutenant has statutory powers under the Irish Habeas large enough in all conscience, and he also can and does make use of a Statute of Edward the Third, now practically obsolete in England but, as Lord Crewe with some naiveté has remarked, 'familiar to everyone in Ireland,' a statute which enables a magistrate sitting anywhere and by himself to bind over any person by sureties to be of good behaviour without giving him the power of call ing witnesses or having an appeal."

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in 1885 thus summed up the Irish situation so far as democracy is concerned:

"I do not believe that the great majority of Englishmen have the slightest conception of the system under which this free nation attempts to rule the sister country. It is a system which is founded on the bayonets of 30,000 soldiers encamped permanently as in a hostile country. It is a system as completely centralized and bureaucratic as that with which Russia governs Poland, or as that which prevailed in Venice under this moment cannot move a stepcan not lift a finger in any parochial, municipal, or educational work with out being confronted with, fered with, controlled by, an English official, appointed by a foreign Gov

So we see that it is not in Ger-This astonishing document was many alone that there are astonishwritten and signed by a ruling grand | ing documents and forms of government much less democratic than could be found in full working order | was inspired by the religious unrest centuries before men began to boast of the time and may well have been of democracy.

It is important to bear something of all this in mind if we are to judge tion. intelligently and fairly of the Irish refusal to be forced to fight for those liberties which are obstinately debureaucracy.

Now let us quote a paragraph or the new religion imposed by the ing)—the Church of which Christ two from this medieval proclamation | State has long been a subject of con. | Himself is the Founder, and to powers of man were condemned to appointing him. The name of the troversy. The importance of the which he promised not only continquestion can very easily be overrated. For whether Shakespeare was or was not a Catholic, Shakespeare's ity to every assault of evil, then the immortal plays are unquestionably Catholic in their inspiration, their sources, and in the life they interhad no more to do with them than the steam engine or the aeroplane.

on Dante the Poet and Spokesman of solemn word of her Lord. the Religion of the Middle Ages. The Sage of Chelsea notes the tremendous progress from the great | did in the sixteenth century, and the and immortal literature of Paganism.

Paganism we recognized as the veracious expression of the earnest awe struck feeling of man towards But mark here the difference of Paganism and Christianism; one great difference. Paganism blemed chiefly the Operations of Nature; the destinies, efforts, comcise and execute Martial Law as our binations, vicissitudes of things and Governor General shall from time to time deem expedient to exercise, exetime deem deep deem content and use the said laws as often as need or necessity shall require and of administering an oath and of less utterance of the first thought of the part of the sensuous nature; a rude, help the reason why Germany was about every wind of doctrine." They must to perpetrate against Europe, and further realize that having by calmen,—the chief recognized virtue. Courage, Superiority to Fear. The ny manner appertain to the other was not for the sensuous nature,

might have been an original of the of the Middle Ages, so Shakespeare its worst, its shameless and sharp- empires of the East are still pagan, of which this religion was the inspiration and the soul.

" As Dante, the Italian man, was sent into our world to embody musi-cally the Religion of the Middle Ages, the Religion of our Modern Europe its Inner Life; so Shakespeare, we may say, embodies for us the Outer puts Trial by Jury into cold storage whenever the alien appointee shows to express his appointee Shakespeare, wide, placid, far-seeing chooses to exercise his more than as the Sun, the upper light of the royal powers over "subjects and world. Italy produced the one worldvoice; we English had the honor of producing the other."

We do not urge the authority of Carlyle, but the lucidly expressed J. H. Morgan, Professor of Consti- truth of his criticism which, if not escapably so on consideration.

Whatever the personal religion of the man Shakespeare, Shakespeare ments and from Church. Franz of Mecklenburg · Schwerin Corpus Act and the Crimes Act which | the playwright was the interpreter of the unquestionably Catholic life of the unquestionably Catholic life of the ages when the undivided Church the Reformation, but the Reformation, but the Reformation, but the Reformation, but the Reformation to develop the second the Reformation to the Reform held supreme sway over life and tion must be held responsible for the thought, ethical ideals and their wars of modern times." practical application to all human

of Dante's Song, had produced this Practical Life which Shakespeare was to sing. For Religion then, as it now and always is, was the soul of Practice; the primary vital fact in men's life. And remark here, as rather curious, that Middle-Age Catholicism was abolished, as far as Acts of Parliament could abolish it, before Shakespeare, the noblest product of it, made his appearance. He make his appearance nevertheless. the Austrian rule. An Irishman at Nature at her own time, with Catholicism or what else might be neces sary, sent him forth; taking small thought of Acts of Parliament.'

> If there is in the whole range of the dramas of Shakespeare - or Bacon or whom you will-one which is tinctured with the principles of the religious revolt it is Hamlet. The hesitating, doubting, vacillating Prince of Denmark very probably intended to typify the state of mind induced by the so-called Reforma-

NOTES AND COMMENTS

"THAT THE Church has failed is a nied to Irishmen themselves by a trite but true saying, but that the privileged minority and an alien Christ has failed is a falsehood." Such is the maxim laid down with-To say, as some do when discuss- out apparent shadow of misgiving ing the subject, that Ireland is gov- by a contributor to The Presbyterwhich she is over represented, is to the hybrid nondescript which Progreat and pressing political problem. "the Church," it is undoubtedly true, if that can be said to have SHAKESPEARE THE CATHOLIC existence. But, as applied to the Whether Shakespeare believed and institution described in the New practised the Catholic Faith during Testament (and we are not left in his life or whether he conformed to doubt as to the Presbyterian's meanuous existence to the end of time, but immutability, and impregnabilwords quoted constitute not a falsehood alone, but one reeking with blasphemy into the bargain. The pret. The new religion just initiated Church cannot be separated from Christ: she is His Spouse, and to say that she has failed is to spurn A few weeks ago we quoted Carlyle the promise and to impugn the

> THAT IS WHAT the "Reformers" resultant evil is what is afflicting as he proceeds to do: "Why

And Caryle points out that just as there. Hostile higher criticism in and made Christianity a bye word and cut off, and in view of that postallow that for all those over fifty one Dante was the Voice of the Religion an enfeebled state church had done among the heathen. Hence the great portrayed the actual living practice ened blade had already struck at the and, as Germany, the "kultured" very vitals of Christianity."

> Since the outbreak of the present War there has been a great searching of hearts among many earnest Protestants as to the real character and ambitions of Luther, and the soundness of the principles which lay at the bottom of the great upheaval identified with his name. Rev. A. C. McGiffert, acting president of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, is one of these. In an address delivered within the past few months to the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, he affirmed that he was not a "thick and thin supporter of the Protestant Reformation," and that Luther's primary desire was not to save the world but to save himself. But let Mr. McGiffert speak for himself:

> "He did not leave the Catholic Church because of intellectual differences. He was no modern man. He did not go because of any moral cor ruption. He left because he wanted freedom. In many of his relations he was the most intolerant man that ever lived, after he had freedom from fear, from self, from law, from Sacraormation which he helped to start made it possible for nations to de-

There you have the genesis, the

consequent religious restraint was lost to the people, and passions of a selfish nationalism and military aggrandizement were left to work their worst upon a witless, helpless humanity.

And not only in Germany, but elsewhere, was faith lost. For to change the figure, the epidemic was universal. Scientific thought held civilized man in its embrace, the Divinity of Faith was forgotten. The Divinity of Faith was forgotten. Church's vitality was paralyzed by doubt produced by a vain search for first causes. The miracle was eliminated, and Christ, the greatest miracle of all, was denied.

If this writer could but straighten out the kinks in his reasoning it taking part in the rearguard actions, would soon become clear to him that it is not to "the Church" he should attribute moral paralysis, but to the human institutions which, owing asset, are a liability.-Globe, June 1. their existence to the perverted ingenuity of man, have now for nearly four centuries usurped her most sacred functions.

THERE IS a striking passage in Balmes which epitomizes the results of the Lutheran revolt and traces is recognized as a deadly menace, them back to their source. It must calling for the exertion of the utmost be noted that the nations of Europe strength of the Allies to stay the erned by the British Parliament in | ian and Westmirster. As applied to | having shaken off the shackles of barbarism, were developing along the betray an amazing ignorance of a testants ordinarily mean by the term right lines before the Reformation, stormed the strong defensive posiand that when that movement broke the unity of Christendom it introfailed which has never had any real duced discord into the existing civilization, weakened the moral action which it exercised on the rest of the world, and impeded its universal progress. Henceforth, as Balmes observes. the intellectual, moral and physical be employed in a struggle which put brother in arms against brother; the nations which had preserved the Faith were compelled to concentrate all their resources against the attacks made upon them by heresy; the nations wherein the new doctrines had taken hold came to consider one enterprise only worthy of their efforts -the destruction of "Rome;" and the immense field which had been thrown open to noble ambition by the discovery of new worlds no longer the defenders. Under these circummerited attention.

PROTESTANTISM THEN, as Balmes the world today. The writer re- further observes, may boast of havferred to bluntly, though (such is his ing undermined the spiritual power confusion of thought) possibly not of the Pope by withdrawing multithe universe; veracious, true once, intentionally, admits this in saying and still not without worth for us. prostituting the written Word to undid we not at the time [the worthy uses to have given a new beginning of the War discover the direction to civilization, but it bereal and underlying reasons why came every day more patent to Protestant Germany, which had thoughtful Protestants themselves given us the Reformation and many that Christian unity is not to be other invaluable blessings, I say found among them, and that without to perpetrate against Europe, and further realize that having by calthe world, the most dastardly series umny and misrepresentation comof crimes ever enacted? I answer, pelled the One Church to adopt an but for the moral. What progress is we were blind. Blind to the fact attitude of defence, they have placed

here, if in that one respect only !--" that faith was already shipwrecked obstacles in the way of true progress of troops in Rheims. Any garrison one to five or six in the total populanation-the mother of Protestantism has made manifest during this War. the barbarian is still at our gates.

IF THEN, as our Presbyterian contemporary avers, religious faith and restraint are lost to the people in other nations as well as in Germany, them not lay the blame upon Christianity or "the Church," but upon the vicious principles which one Doctor Martin Luther let loose upon the world. Let those who, when the War broke out, asserted that it indicated the failure of Christianity as a civilizing influence reflect that it is civilization itself that has apostatized from Christian principles. Or, as Gilbert Chesterton succinctly expresses it: "We have tried everything else to stop the War: let us now try Christianity."

THE PRINCIPAL developments of the day were the extension of the enemy activity to the Champagne front, east of Rheims-doubtless with of a new drive between Soissons and the Oise on the Ailette front. The French fell back there to new positions which preserve the alignment in motor transport, for the enemy has badly crippled their railway systems during the past few days. The enemy advance toward the Capital will now proceed until it is stayed along the road, rail and water routes in the Oise and Marne Valleys.

BERLIN continues to send out bul letins calculated to set the bells ringing in Germany. One issued yester day states that the prisoners now number over 45,000, that the guns captured are "far in excess" of four hundred, and that thousands of ma chine guns have been taken. should be remembered that the Germans do not distinguish between wounded and unwounded prisoners. The bulk of the prisoners in this case are wounded men who were and who when wounded could not be carried back by the retreating army. The enemy is hampered by these prisoners, who, instead of being an

PREMIER CLEMENCEAU'S paper, The Freeman, in a statement which may be regarded as expressing the view of the French Government, admits the gravity of the situation, but expresses the utmost confidence in the final result.

THE GERMAN advance toward Paris is no longer regarded as a feint. It enemy's rusb. In two days of incessant and sanguinary fighting the armies of the Crown Prince have tions of the Ailette, occupied the Chemin des Dames, captured the Heights of the Aisne on a front of almost twenty miles east of Fort de secured the bridge-heads along the river, crossed the plateau between the Aisne and the Vesle, and, according to the latest French report, have crossed the Vesle at two points, Bazoches and Fismes, and by doing so have cut the railway from Rheims to Soissons, which is of the greatest importance in the French greatest importance in the transportation system along the transportation of the Crown Aisne. The troops of the Crown Prince have advanced fully twelve miles at the point of greatest pene-tration, and have covered almost half the distance from Laon to the

IN THE OPENING PHASE of the attle the French and British troops holding the line were outnumbered all along the front. greatly places the Germans actually engaged in the attack numbered ten to one of stances it is manifest that the leaders of the Allied armies did not expect the enemy's greatest stroke on the part of the front upon which the storm burst. Had they expected it enlisted gives a total of available man the line would have been more strongly held. The initial success of the enemy

as followed up with the utmost

There is no attempt on the part of the military writers of the French press to minimize the danger. -Globe, May 29.

RHEIMS IS in dauger at the extreme east of the battlefront. The troops covering the city have been withdrawn, after heavy fighting, to a line behind the Aisne Canal, northwest of the town. Rheims is of no military value, and General Foch, with his urgent need for men to interpose between the Germans and Paris, can hardly tie up a large body one years.

sibility sentiment must not be permitted to govern the actions of the Commander in Chief.

THE GERMAN official reports now claim twenty-five thousand prisoners. The majority of them, of course, are French and British wounded, who because of the rapidity of the retire-ment could not be removed from the battlefield. It is claimed also by the Germans that the attack on the Ailette on Monday morning was a and a selfish nationalism and military of the defending force having been aggrandizement are left to work their smothered by artillery fire, the the same. Ireland had 292,080 worst upon helpless humanity, let German infantry casualties in the available out of 645,447—45 per cent assault were extremely light. That may have fighting now going on. The defence millions, or from now should have distinctly the best 000 men available. of it in the matter of casualties. BERLIN RECOMES jubilant.

detailed report as to the result of the

35,000 prisoners and booty in artillery and war material, including depots of revisions and munitions, railway trains, hospital establishments, including medical stores of which the enemy is in dire need-an aerodrome with machines ready to start, and railway guns of ON THE BATTLE LINE | the heaviest calibre. The story loses nothing in the telling, but even discounted liberally it proves that the element of surprise had much to do with the initial success of the attack. Air-planes, and guns mounted on railway trucks, are kept well back from the object of hastening the evacua-tion of that city— and the opening airplanes in a condition parmitting airplanes in a condition permitting their use by the enemy proves that the retirement was an extremely relations.

This Carlyle recognizes:

"In some sense it may be said that this glorious Elizabeth Era with its Shakespeare, as the outcome and Shakespeare, as hasty one. The loss of munitio the Marne the Paris Verdun line is already in the enemy's hands. It is the defenders of Braine and Fismes. fortunate that the French are strong in motor transport, for the enemy takes time to destroy huge quantities of projectiles, and that time the French were not able to secure because of the pressure on their rear

IRELAND'S PART IN THE WAR

guards.-Globe, May 31.

By one bit of publicity or another the impression has been conveyed to American readers that Ireland exempted from conscription, has not properly supported the cause of the Allies by contributhe armed forces. contributions of men to

Many obstacles were thrown in the way of recruiting of Nationalists in Ireland. Applicants for enlistments were often rejected for trivial easons, or sent to distant points without funds to be enrolled. Sir Hedley Le Bas in a report of the War Office, which the late John E. Redmond stated in the House of Commons that he himself had seen, wrote that various recruiting and other officers had told him they 'didn't want too many Nationalist

recruits."

But Ireland's contribution may be best grasped by an American reader, if compared with what the United States would have to do in this War to equal Ireland's supply of man

Before the War, by the census of 1911, Ireland had 4,381,000 population. Every year from 1840 to 1916 Ireland had steadily lost population In 1914, therefore, her population was below the figure of is well known as to Ireland that she has a smaller percentage of men in the vigorous ages than either Eng-Scotland or Wales. This is due to the emigration of her men between the ages of eighteen and fifty years.

Yet Sir A. Geddes, speaking officially for the British Ministry, gives Ireland's contribution of men as of January, 1918, to be 170,000. Although there are other figures, which make the contribution larger, let this official figure be taken as a basis for comparison. In October, 1916, the figures of the military Ireland were published by the War Office. These figures were gathered as a basis for conscription if it were sought to be then applied. The military census showed that Ireland had 645,447 men between the ages of eighteen and fifty one years. Of these 245,875 were engaged in "indispensable" occupations: were physically unfit: 130,841 had en listed for the War, and 161,239 were available for military service. Adding the 161,289, available, but

not enlisted, to the 130,841 already power of 292,080. Sir A. Geddes officially credits Ireland with 170,000 by January, 1918, showing that 40,000 of the 161,239 had joined the colors after October, 1916. This leaves but 121,000, now available in Ireland. Out of a total man power of 291,000, Ireland has sent forward vol-unteers 170,000—about 58.1 per cent.

The United States has 108,000,000 population, of whom nearly 10,000,000 by registration last June were found to be between twenty one and thirty-one years. It is fair to assume that there are between 17,000,000 and 20,000,000 men in this country between the ages of eighteen and fifty

years, an equal number would found who are between eighteen and twenty-one years, then the men of the military age, eighteen to fifty-one years, would be, as stated above, between 17,000,000 and 20,000,000.

Assume that the proportion of those engaged in "indispensable" occupa-tions, shipbuilding, munitions, food production and the like, would be the same as in Ireland; proportion of physically u unfit would be the same, and that the proportion of available men would be the same. Ireland had 292,080 of all her men of military y have been true on the first
Then the United States would have
ack; is assuredly not true of the
thing now going on. The defence millions, or from 7,750,000 to 9,000,

Ireland has produced up to Jan In a uary, 1918, by the British War Office records, 170,000, out of battle up till Wednesday night, the 292,080 available men, or 58.1 per German War Department claims cent. The United States would have to produce out of her 7,750,000 or 9,000,000 men, from 4,579,250 to 5,819 000 soldiers, every one of whom would have to be a "Volunteer."

The ordinary citizen of the United believes, that it will not be necessary to supply from 4,500,000 to 5,800,000 soldiers to end the War victoriously. But until the United States of America does produce that number of soldiers our country will not have equalled Ireland's contributionthen the result would not be quite the same, for up to the present every soldier and sailor enlisted from Ireland is a volunteer in the cause of the Allies .- N. Y. Catholic

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND A COURT-HOUSE

A CATHOLIC CUSTOM REVIVED IN THE STATES

On April 8 a bronze tablet of the Ten Commandments, 50x40 inches, which had been attached to the Allegheny County court-house, Pitts-burg, was formally presented with appropriate addresses. It is the gift of Pittsburg members of the International Reform Bureau and other citizens, Hebrew, Catholic, and Pro-testant. Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts, superintendent of the Reform Bureau, in his brief address as presiding officer, said: "This is the first instance, so far as we know, that a court-house has displayed its real corner-stone, laid by Moses twentyfive hundred years ago, and again laid twelve hundred years ago when Justinian began the first code modern civilization with the Commandments and other related passages from Exodus. Never so much as in this War, in which one side, has torn laws in pieces law as the alternate of war before our people. Napoleon said in sub-stance, 'Morale is three times as important as munitions in war.' And plies, it is an outgrowth of 'the courage of an army and a people that believe this world is not flying unguided in space, but is God's world, controlled by a wise and lov ing providence, who overrules the plots of bad men for the good of the

FORWARD, WITH THE MAID!

French veterans from many a glor ous battlefield, French mothers and maids gathered a few days ago in Orleans to celebrate the anniversary of the day when Joan of Arc wrested that fair city on the Loire from the grasp of its foes. The old medieval town into which the Maid of France rode in triumph with her captains and men at arms and her chaplains singing their Te Deums, has never forgotten her deliverer. Year after year the arches of the Cathedral of Orleans have re echoed her praises, and the most eloquent voices in a land of eloquent men have told the descendants of the burghers who welcomed her as an angel of deliverance of the tragedy and the triumph of the Maid of Domremy. Never since the hour when the victorious heroine of Bean gency and Patay flashed like the vision of some pure and dauntless archangel through their gates was Joan the Maid so near them as now. For every French heart knows and feels that the Virgin Warrior of the Tourelles and Reims is fighting with them and leading their hosts to The men of the Argonne and Roclincourt, of les Eparges and the the line before Amiens and the bloody slones of Mount Kemmel know that in the trench, to guide them to victory, to cheer them in defeat, ever to lead them on the sacred path of honor and duty. In her heart the maid of France

wore the lily of purity, whiter than the snowy fleece of the lamb she tended in pastoral Lorraine. In her hand she the sword of knighthood as she dash ed to the onset, more reckless of danger than D'Alencon, or Dunois, or battle-scarred La Hire, who galloped at her side. On her virgin brow rests the crown of martyrdom forged in the fires of Rouen. Virgin, war-ior, martyr! The world can give her no fairer title, the Church of God no Virgin, warnobler name. The men of France