FOUR The Catholic Record

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The following agonts are autonomic determined in the carmon of the carmo

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917

HOME RULE AND THE BRITISH JUNKERS

The half-hearted and insincere attempts of some of our Canadian papers to justify Lloyd George's sur- to make Irish men and women of render to the English junkers in the Canada cherish the memory of fearmatter of keeping faith with Ireland less friends in a trying time. makes the Globe, whose editorial pronouncement we quoted largely last week, stand out in refreshing contrast. Necessarily the defence of English bad faith and the denunciation of the same thing in Germany go lamely together. The wholesouled advocates and champions of democracy against German autocracy and junkerdom are somewhat abashed when they find themselves constrained to justify minority rule, junker dictation, and the open flouting of the bed-rock principles of democratic self-government.

But some of our correspondents

are mistaken in thinking that the Globe is alone in consistent and fear. the courage of its convictions.

unwilling hand was forced by the privileged class. Sinn Fein and expressing the pious belief that all would be right after cause he gives expression to his own Russian patriotism had decided that over the parapet are not indications the War, the Citizen says :

uphold the action of the government could feel that the Right Rev. after the War was concluded, that old, old human trait of appearwithout offending the influential section of public opinion which is convinced that the British government displayed bad faith in its a dignity and restraint in his most through a country in which there hearts these men are praying, yes percentilation of its former attitude impassioned utterances. His favorite were stored not only the wheat praying as they never prayed before ; toward the Home Rule question.

"The plain truth is that there will be no Home Rule bill passed or to remember, for Irishmen to forget," harvests from which in normal one exerts his powers to the utmost the statute books in placed on Britain while such men as Sir Edward Carson,

led to the famous trial which ended so dramatically in the death of Richard Piggot, the unfortunate forger and perjurer, who was chosen by the junkers in Britain to connect It is late in the day to murders. advise Mr. Redmond to continue to attempt a constitutional course.

"When our contemporary says that what happens in the party political game does not necessarily represent trend of public opinion' it the exposes the whole of what goes be It admits that what is happenfore. ing to Mr. Redmond now is part of the party game. Yet it assures its readers in the same breath that now is not the time 'to stir up the smouldering fires of the Home Rule controversy,' and that 'after the War the matter can be settled satis-In other words, now is actorily the time for the other side to play party politics while Mr. Redmo and the Nationalists remain silent for the sake of the empire unanimity This is indeed a pleasant prospect and sheds a strong light on the post bellum chances of the Nationalists. they want it, the history and experi-But perhaps our contemporary beence of the Dominions will lead them lieves that after the War, the Carsons, Laws, Northcliffes and others will cease playing the party political game so far as the Home Rule measure is concerned!"

We have quoted at length for several reasons. One is that the memories associated with St. Patrick's Day, 1917, will be bitter enough

Another good and sufficient reason of its local contemporary the Citizen tives. has refuted in its entirety what in that section of the Canadian press London for giving adequate expreswould swell the chorus of praise if of the pseudo-democrats whose pro-Lloyd George had played the man. fessions are belied by their practice.

BISHOP FALLON'S ADDRESS St. Patrick's eve, 1917, will be a

memorable date for lrish Canadians. the Russian revolution did not dear to them. They are not acting less advocacy and logical application The day dear to all in whose veins come with startling unexpectedness. upon impulse. They have counted of the principles which all Canadian runs the red blood of the fighting race Four months ago we reproduced and the cost and, naught dismayed, like papers loudly profess. We are pleased is this year overclouded by a brother commented upon a remarkably-and good Christian soldiers they put their to quote another self-respecting and Celt's weakness or treachery. But as the event proved - prophetic soul's affairs in order and offer themconsistent Canadian paper which has the indignation and resentment of article written by a Russian just prior selves on the altar of patriotism. the Irish in Canada found eloquent to the fall of Premier Stürmer, in Should they be Catholics they go to Referring to a local contemporary's voice in Bishop Fallon's fringing which he depicted Russian conditions, confession and fortify themselves un Canadian palliation of the English denunciation of the two weights and the predisposing causes of inevit with the Bread of the Strong. Then Prime Minister's weakness or treach- two measures of England's Prime able revolution, conditions which they are ready, if need be, for the ery by suggesting that Redmond's Minister, the radical tool of the are only just now coming to light in shambles. The ringing cheer, the

> Always a convincing speaker, be depths of his soul. Withal there was

had in it an unusual touch of pathos. times Russia annually exports to conquer. But if a bullet lays him Andrew Bonar Law To be able to forget we have to re- hundreds of millions of bushels. swept away. To think for oneself, to ? have intellectual honesty and moral courage, to lead the way into new paths, and easy. is to invite misunderstanding, harsh

# THE CATHOLIC RECORD

FACING DEATH

Man; on the Christian Life" that

throws some light upon this attitude

Speaking of the French people-and

what he says is equally true of

following constitutional practice that ing and consistent believer in selfgovernment. In the Nineteenth Century for June last Mr. Sheridan, also an advocate of Imperial consolidation, and before, of course, the Mr. Parnell with the Phoenix Park latest provocation, thus speaks of Ireland and its relation to the reali-

> zation of that ideal : "The prevalent belief in Irelandnamely, that the opponents of Home Rule mean the suspension of the Act to be its death if any chance gives them the power to compass that end-has spread from Ireland to the Dominions, and it is there felt that England has yet to be converted to devolution So the position remains that the question blocks the Irish 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 have self-government if 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 reason to believe that the Mother Country was in any degree herself reponsible for the

long-continuing failure to settle the Irish question. The "narrow and limited class which would "wreck the Empire

rather than relinquish their ascendancy in Ireland " may yet find them selves faced with the stern necessity is that in answering the allegations of making their choice of the alterna-

In any case the men of Irish blood passes for argument on this question in Canada will thank the Bishop of which considers special pleading, sion in this dark and difficult hour cynical inconsistency and shifty to their outraged sense of justice, to opportunism an evidence of loyalty their resentment of the insult put to the Empire. The same papers upon their race, and to their scorn

solution.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

To readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD themselves but for those who are the daily press. It began to look, however, as if of banter that accompany their dash

deliberate and strongly felt convic- the dangerous and difficult day of of recklessness or of indifference to "All this, of course, is an attempt to tions, on this occasion one and all reckoning should be postponed until death. No, they are an evidence of large and erend orator was stirred to the very Apparently conditions became intol- ing abnormally gay in the most serierable. Gaunt famine stalked ous situations. Deep down in their questation from Sir HoracesPlunkett: sufficient for the home population, for they are conscious of their close-Anglo-Irish history is for Englishmen but the accumulations of three ness to judgment and eternity. Each

and others, including Lord North- member that the British oligarchy Like all irresponsible oligarchies his soul and to his God. He has on pilgrimage bent to the shrine of cliffe and his friends, are in a posi- no more represents the British the Russian autocracy and bureau- done his duty; he has not given his people than the Russian autocracy cracy miscalculated the effect of life in vain. represented the people of Russia. their callous indifference to the And we must resolutely look forward sufferings of the people. Instead of hand, and what he is afraid of, are to the time when like its Russian driving them to clamor for peace the counterpart it will be as ruthlessly malignantly selfish policy of their oppressors created just that universal and poignant sense of injustice, anger and resentment which made the stupendous revolution possible

These considerations will throw Russia, still steeped in the tradi-When one reads in the daily press of sailors lining up, on deck and giving three cheers as their ship sinks beneath the waves, or of a dying there is reason to hope that many, boldly an oppressor. Prussia, howsoldier asking his companions to raise him up that he might fire one more shot at the enemy, one's feeling of admiration is apt to be mingled with the consciousness that, natural that confront them on every that in the unhallowed spoliation after all, there is something inharmonious in this mode of passing into eternity, something, as the French would say, too bizarre to be associated with such an awful death was the grateful pean of an that the section of the Polish people moment. There is a passage in one of Lacordaire's "Letters to a Young a greater fight.

THE GLEANER. -----

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

others-he points out the effects of REGINALD DE KOVEN and Percy destroying the intimate union of MacKaye, names well known in the had declared Poland to be an indereason and faith in the depths of the operatic world, have produced a new soul. "We have," he says, "retained grand opera entitled "The Cantervalor-la bravoure-but valor only bury Pilgrims," founded on Chaucer's demands a certain impetuosity in celebrated poem, The Canterbury the face of danger, a contempt for Tales. It was produced for the first proclamation of Grand Duke death conceived in a moment of time in the Metropolitan Operaexcitement, and rather an heroic House, New York, during the present forgetfulness of reason than a calm month. We have not seen the ver. return for Polands adhesion or, at appreciation of duty." When we dict of the critics, but judging from least, neutrality, constitutional govconside how the Saints feared the synopsis published in the New ernment would be accorded to her, death, even when they had made the York Times Magazine prior to proimmediate preparation for it, the duction, the opera, whatever its part a necessity. In the first place picture of men, many of whom are merits as a musical composition, is the German rulers, certain as they far from being saints and far from on other grounds sure to come in for being prepared to die, going to their much adverse criticism. doom with a cheer certainly con-

stitutes a strange enigma. If, however, we examine the motives that able to the intellect or imagination neighbors was imperative. Again, prompt men to risk their lives on of the reader, and however faithful having incurred the condemnation the battlefield or on the deep, the as a picture of the times in which he of the whole world for her treatment but a capricious instrument in the riddle will not appear so difficult of lived, is not a fit subject for the of Belgium, Germany was anxious There are, first of all, those-let us hope their name is legion-who join the forces from a sense of duty not only to their country but to God. They have weighed the matter well

in the balance of faith and reason. They are well aware of the sacrifice that their action entails not only for making. The nation was but one great family, whose members felt themselves privileged to take liberties' one with the other, just as brothers and sisters in the more circumscribed family-circle do even in this artificial and irreverent age. Chaucer's Cansnatch of some old melody, the word

of the fourteenth century.

BUT THE twentieth century is not the fourteenth, nor can the widewho, joining themselves to the throng land. low he then gives his attention to

some light upon the enigma that we tions of her Tartar ancestry and referred to in the beginning. I is, having but the crudest idea of however, a consoling thought that human liberty, was frankly and who left our shores mere natural ever, arrogating to herself then as men with perhaps many faults, have, now leadership in Kultur and refinein the face of the stern realities of ment, added hypocrisy to tyranny, War, the manifestations of the super- while of Austria alone can it be said hand, and the lively faith of some she was not by choice an evil-doer. comrade-in-arms, realized their duty In these days of her disaster and to God and complied with it-and approaching humiliation, it should that the cheer with which they met be remembered to Austria's credit exultant soul that had conquered in which fell to her lot have from the first received humane and rational treatment at her hands.

> ONE OF Germany's astute moves during the present War was to announce that the Central Powers pendent kingdom, under a constitutional monarchy. This move had been expected for long, and the reasons for it were apparent. The Nicholas soon after the beginning of hostilities, to the effect 'that in made a counter move on Germany's then were of victory, realized that to safeguard their conquests the creation of a buffer state between them

CHAUCER'S POEM, however pleasur. and their powerful Muscovite twentieth century stage. It deals to show that she had some regard with and was written in an age when for the rights of weaker nations. religion dominated everything in life, and thirdly, Poland seemed to afford and it was as natural for men and a splendid recruiting ground women to mix their prayers and their for her already sorely depleted innocent fun as it was to eat or to armies. How she has been caught in sleep.' It was the age of faith, and the hypocrisy of the one hope, and the body-politic being free from the sorely disappointed in the second is discords and divisions of a later time, now matter of history. Poland, even men understood and appreciated the to a greater degree than Belgium, has religious life, and thought it no felt the iron heel of Prussian miliharm (as it was not) to include con. tarism, notwithstanding which her better condition for manufacturers, secrated men and women in their sons have not become willing reharmless satires or in their fun. recruits to the German armies.

THAT WITH the coming triumph of the Allies, Poland will realize the full measure of her hopes is reasonably assured. Russia may wish to vision of a restored Polish Kingdom terbury Tales can be understood and irresistibly rises over the smoke and appreciated only by those who are din of conflict. Poland has a proud versed in the lore of the past and history, and like the people of Irehave imbibed something of the spirit land, her sons have, amid all the suf fering and oppression through which they have passed, never relinquished the aspiration after restored nation.

hood. When peace terms come to be spread worldliness and materialism discussed, which inevitably will ininto the innocuousness and simplic. tion, how immeasurably Britain's ity of the past. The instructed may part in the negotiations will be and delight of the monk and abbess to them a clean slate regarding Ire-

MARCH 24, 1917

Some of the rosy conclusions with regard to the present operations on the west front hardly are ustified by the actual facts, as there still are many trenches to pass.

Much loose talk has' been heard lately in regard to aerial supremacy Such supremacy can only be gained by actual battle. We won by ch means during the Somme campaign, but the test this year has yet to come.

### IN THE AIR

An air raid on England, covering the southeastern counties, is reported from London. According to the official midnight despatch the raid was still in progress. Bombs were dropped at several places in Kent. It is some time since the enemy's air ships visited the English coast. The The

anti-aircraft defences are now cap-able of dealing effectively with the raiders should the weather prove favorable .- Globe, March 17.

# T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

TORIES WANT PREMIER THEIR SERVANT

LLOYD GEORGE'S " NIMBLE MIND FEELING PRESSURE OF DECENT ENGLISH OPINION

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1917, Central News)

London, March 17th. - Now that what might be termed the honey moon of his premiership in England has passed, Lloyd George finds that is confronted with the same problems and the same troubles in government that beset every man who becomes a ruler of his men, and that he is supplied with House of Commons. It certainly appeared as though the Premier had received a knockout blow last week when he turned down the Irish demand with such vehemence. As a natural sequence, since misfortunes, the adage tells us, never come alone there arose at the same time a fierce agitation in Lancashire. This was a business difficulty, touching the pockets and threatening the commercial life of many. So strenuous was the feeling that the Government was abusing its power, and so ardent was the determination to force a that party differences were, at least for the time, entirely obliterated and all, influenced by financial interest oined in a movement which seemed to threaten the life of the ministry ecause it proposed to raise the duties on Lancashire cotton imported into India.

retain a measure of control, but the alists, as they had threatened to do, In the meantime the Irish Nation went into a strenuous opposition and the new national service bill, which is not very popular in Eng land, and which is very distinctly unpopular in Ireland, gave the desired opportunity to start a prolonged parliamentary fight.

The situation thus brought about is exceedingly complicated, and for the government to extricate itself. to escape with honors seems to be impossible. Indeed, to best judges of the present be expected to enter clude the realization of this aspira- of the situation, there appears to be nothing for the government to do except call for a general election Accordingly, for some days now the read in Chaucer with unalloyed profit strengthened if she is able to bring report has been sedulously circu lated that a general election would be called, with Lloyd George arrayed against a recalcitrant House of Com-

tion to prevent it. Mr. Redmond's hand was not forced by the Sinn Fein-Mr. Redmond is not afraid of that element. What did force his the junkers in the British cabinet. The Irish leader who has been more truly loyal to the cause of the empire than some of the present members of the cabinet foresaw that unless some action was taken now the whole question would go by the board. If the government will not grant workable measure of Home Rule at criticism and worse. Not without a this time, when Irishmen at home and abroad have done so much and made such sacrifices for the empire, there is scant hope that the rights of the Irish people will be considered after the War."

There is no getting away from this wealth. The thousands of Irishconclusion. Lloyd George himself held out no hope of a settlement after sider the project on its merits the War. His surrender was abject and complete.

The Citizen continues:

"Our contemporary thus comments ment : upon Mr. Redmond and his course during the present struggle :

'Viewed after the war, the attempt of Mr. Redmond to follow a constitutional course leading to Home Rule will, we think commend itself most favorably to the British people. His case, as set forth in the manifesto just issued, should make a wide appeal. He has been hampered by ex tremists both at home and in the United States.'

"This would be interesting were in not for the fact that Mr. Redmond has followed a constitutional course Imperial Legislature where since he became leader of his party that Mr. Justin M Carthy follow such an evil predominance. constitutional course before Mr. Red. mond and that Mr. Parnell followed Fallon recalls the words of another the constitutional tactics laid down by Mr. Isaac Butt, who was the original 'constitutionalist' and the Irishman on the other side of the world, J. Clerc Sheridan, Comfounder of the Nationalist party in the British commons. It was the missioner for Revenue to the Union attempt of the London Times to of South Africa, neither a Catholic establish that Mr. Parnell was not nor a Nationalist but a self-respect-

Catholics above all others save, perhaps, the Jews, have reason to keen sense of all this, Bishop Fallon rejoice and to thank God for the has advocated in season and out of overthrow of the most unscrupulous season, in private and, in public, a closer union, a more adequate political and most insidious religious tyranny organization of the British common. of modern times.

It is now in order-even an evi dence of loval zeal-to tell the truth men whom he induced to conabout the bad old order which, let us hope, has forever disappeared in the unbiassed by bitter memories, will greatest of the Slav countries. understand what it cost him to make Ardently as we may hope and pray this deliberate and momentous statethat the era of freedom has definitely begun for Russia, there is reason to "I am giving expression to no momentary irritation. For a quar-

of a century I have

fear that the gigantic power of the bureaucracy will not pass without a a believer in and an advocate desperate death-struggle. There is of some form of federation of not the slightest ground for hope Britain's wide-spread dominions. I that it will hesitate to play into speak with a full sense of respon-sibility and of the bearing of my words when I say that Mr. Lloyd Germany's hands if by so doing it thinks that as a reward of its George has filled many of us with treason it may again wrest from the is made up of rolling stanes, advenmistrust and suspicion. He has made us doubt if it would be wise to people's representatives the reins of turous spirits, and those who gladly absolute power. And there is the flee from domestic infelicity or the confide, I do not say the custody, but even the consideration of any most compelling of reasons why the ennui of life. To these the War particle of Canadian liberties or any Prussian junkers should bend every seemed a God-send; for it offered aspect of Canada's destiny to an effort to restore the autocracy and them just what they craved forbureaucracy in Russia. irresponsible oligarchy can exercise

This pronouncement of Bishop Central Allies by force of arms. God speed the revolution.

supernatural does not influence their the place of religion, and as they drama for the delectation of frivolous

it calls forth those transports of modern flag-worship. The highest egregious a defamation. ambition of such as these is to be

mentioned in despatches, to die with SHALL POLAND come into her own | equipped ? honor on the field of glory and to be again ? That is one of the predominenrolled in the list of their country's ant questions which the War has heroes. Evidences of bravado in the brought into being, and which, with face of death are quite in keeping the increasing prospect of an Allied with such ideals. But are these victory, gives every promise of an ideals distinctively Christian? It affirmative answer. Poland has was a pagan poet who said "Sweet shared with Ireland the palm as a and seemly it is to die for one's martyr-nation. Not, perhaps, in the position on the Education possession line, is almost entirely in possession fatherland," and the ancient pagans same degree, or over so great a space of the British. North and south of of Thermopylae and the modern ones of time, but she has paid nevertheof Japan have been, perhaps, the less in blood and in tears for her most conspicuous exponents of this geographical position between two ideal. powerful and aggressive monarchies.

and, in the present conflict has out-Apart from these two classes there is another and very numerous one that done even Belgium in the measure of her tribulation. Buoyed up, however, by the hope that the darkest hour is before the dawn, Poland may in her present stress see through her tears the bright star of re-born independence.

change, excitement, adventure, and If the revolution results in the the chance to gain the bubble reputapermanent free government of Russia tion even at the cannon's mouth. Life it will have achieved a victory more they hold very cheaply, for it has lost far-reaching and vital in its effects its sweetness. The most dangerous than any that could be hoped for exploits are to their liking, if it were from the most crushing defeat of the only that what has proved stale, There were three aggressors in that tedious, unprofitable, might go out in a blaze of glory.

THE BATTLE LINE the "holy blissful martir." felt it not necessary to hold themselves

aloof, but entered into the merriment If Grand Duke Nicholas resumes There are others whose patriotism as well as the piety of their lay com- supreme command of the Russian is, perhaps, more intense in degree panions. Far other would it be, armies, as seems inevitable, we may verdicts, which would be but less exalted in kind. Not having however, to have these same monks look for that crushing sledge-hammer plished by a general election, as Rosany definite religious belief, the and nuns, divested of their true blow of which Russia with her overcharacteristics, made to strut across whelming numbers and regenerated lives. Patriotism, for them, takes a modern stage as puppets in a love spirit is capable. But not too soon. Time is necessary to bring order devote to it the highest faculties of and unbelieving audiences. We and sorganization into the chaos, their souls it is not surprising that shall be greatly surprised if Catholic military and civil, which was deliberpublicists in the Republic do not ately brought about by the old Goventhusiasm that are associated with utter a solemn protest against so ernment. Will Germany wait or is she ready to strike while Russia is

disorganized, weak and poorly

#### ON THE WESTERN FRONT

British progress on the Bapaume-Peronne line, strengthening the hold of General Haig's troops on these enemy strongholds.

St. Pierre Vaast Wood, a strong the wood the British also occupy three thousand yards of enemy trenches, according to official reports from General Haig. The wood lies between Sailly and Bouchavesnes. Its capture weakens still further the

enemy's hold on Peronne. Reviewing the military situation said :

As I rather led you to anticipate last week, the Germans are with drawing from Buquoy line even faster than I expected, and probably soon will give up entirely the forward slope of Bapaume ridge and retire to the reverse slope, where they are parliamentary screen t ONE OF THE most execrable outnot so exposed to our artillery fire. recent writer, was the cynical and advance and executed without much brutal partition of Poland towards material loss.

the close of the eighteenth century. "While these operations were on not lie in equal proportion on all. thousand.

mons appealing to the country at large for support in his measure.

The Irish Party alone remains unmoved by this possible contingency, as every member of it is as anxious to get away from deceptive common is to place before all Irish constituencies a clear - cut issue between constitutional and revolu tionary methods. They are winning for Ireland as the days proceed. The ultra Tories, also, are in favor of a general election, which believe would result in a huge khaki majority, and thus restore their supremacy over Parliament, over the ministry and even over the Premier himself. Now he is their master but they are convinced that a general election would result in making him their servant.

This threat, for so it has been con Latest War despatches report sidered, of a general election, and cool contemplation of what the result is sure to be, soon cooled the ardor of all parties, and it became known that a division on cotton duties, which at one time threatened the complete overthrow of the ministry, would be unable to obtain support in the House of Commons outside of the members from Lan. cashire, and that with this danger removed, the ministry, though it would suffer undoubted and serious damage, still would escape with its official life.

Thus do we live in a condition of Parliamentary equipoise, with the of the past week, Brig. Gen. Maurice said: every nerve to keep the House of Commons as at present constituted, intact until we can see more nearly the approach of the end of the War.

But that which is in plain view of Behind the parliamentary screen that shuts off their view, many further moves rages in European history, says a The movement was planned in regarding Home Rule in Ireland are going on, only a hint of which escapes from time to time. The Irish Party is holding itself sternly aloof from all

we were keeping up minor actions pledges and entanglements, having until for this month our roll of given their pledges to the Irish pledges and entanglements, having national murder, but the guilt does German prisoners already totals a people that they will have nothing more to do with the present negotia