

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

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THESE TIMES AND DAYS

Every one who has any power of historical imagination must at some time have thought how enthralling it must have been to have lived during some stirring and fateful period of the past. But do we realize that we have passed through and are now in a period of history wholly unparalleled throughout the long story of the human race? During the last five years we have lived in the midst of warlike convulsions far greater than the world had ever known before, calling on men for sacrifices great beyond all previous conception; and we are entering another five years of change and experiment that will be as trying and testing as the War has been. If we desire sensation, we have it all around us, and it now forms the very atmosphere of our social state. Yet it may be doubted if there are many seeing and feeling the realities around them as those realities will appeal to the imagination of their children's children, when the effects of what we see have been grouped on the stage of history by historians as yet unborn.

Whether we realize it or not, we have had such chances of watching a great panorama of contemporary history unroll as no previous generation had. The next nearest approach to a conscious living of history, and not merely hearing of it, came with the meteoric career of Napoleon. He shook many nations with the sound of his cannon. But the scale even of his wars was small compared with that of the Great War. The echoes of his strife did not reverberate hourly in the ears of all the people through the press, nor did the war of his day try the constancy of whole communities by swift dangers overshadowing them from the sky. His Waterloo, great though it proved in far-reaching consequences, was but a skirmish compared with the prolonged and daily battles of the immediate past.

Never before has there been such an assembling of men from the ends of the earth on behalf of causes which stirred in them a noble enthusiasm. We have seen a world unknown to the ancients and mightier far than Rome, though pledged to peace by long tradition, join voluntarily in the strife of the Old World, and send its sons across the ocean to redress evils which threatened the future of mankind. We have seen four of the six nations that might properly take the name of Empires broken up and cease to exist in the form with which they entered upon the War.

Suppose, at the dawn of the twentieth century, any one had foretold that before twenty years had passed China would be a republic; Turkey would be shorn of all her power and stand a suppliant before the Western world for consideration; that a British general would be in supreme command of British, French, Italian, and Greek forces occupying all the great sites of the storied East; that Russia would be dismembered into a dozen States; that Austria would have ceased utterly to exist as an Empire and be reduced to a minor State; that the Hohenzollern dynasty would have perished amid almost universal scorn; that Germany itself would be shorn of every colony, and be trimmed of territory nearly all around her borders; that the British Empire and its colonies would be welded into one by sanguinary sacrifices; that the great American republic would have come out of her isolation, and joined once for all the community of nations responsible for the attempted orderliness of the world; and that, by common consent, arrangements would be made, backed by two thirds of the power of the world, to govern international affairs by reason and justice supported by international force. How many would have refrained from branding the prophet as a visionary, teaching vain things? Can we not feel the scorn with which such intelligent anticipations of events would have been received?

And yet all this, and far more, has come to pass close under our eyes, "mid tears and blood and tribula-

tion." We have seen new States arise that were not thought of even as a name. Finland we all know as having a semi-independent existence that was grudgingly by Tsardom; but how few of us knew anything of Letland, or Esthonia, or Ukraina as possible European States? The Czechs were often in the newspapers as a vigorous minority in the Austrian parliament, but who expected the revival of the ancient State of Bohemia? How could there be Polish unity, since the Polish race was divided between the three powerful Empires, Russia, Germany, and Austria? Russia might indeed, in a moment of weakness, give the Poles the liberty she had long denied them, but Austria and Germany would never relinquish their hold on the territories their ancestors had received as "compensation" for Russia's former aggrandisement, in the days when a big theft by one Power was compensated for by allowing lesser thefts by other Powers from the same victim. Yet here is Poland emerging from the turmoil of war, a State with all her people practically intact, ready to start a new national life, let us hope, less ill-omened than the life she led when she was independent before.

Strange indeed have been the fallings apart and drawings together of peoples under the stress of universal war in Eastern Europe. No one, whatever his knowledge may have been of local divisions and racial leanings, could have foretold what would happen when an opportunity came for the consolidation of the Slavonic race. The cleavages that occurred under that stress were quite other than the most knowing had anticipated. For more than a generation the Russians had been calling upon the smaller nationalities united to them by racial affinity to unite, and repeatedly had shown their devotion to a Slavonic ideal by going to war in protection of an oppressed portion of the race. They had helped to establish Rumania, and they had rescued Bulgaria from the clutches of the Turk. Yet now, when the opportunity for a wider unity was brought by far-spread war, it was Russia that became shattered into warring fragments, because her cleavage, over a large part of her area, occurred along social and economic, or non-economic, lines, and not according to racial aspirations. Meanwhile the scattered fragments of the Slavonic breed whom Russia claimed to have under her sympathetic guardianship, when it suited her imperial rulers to have friends in the camps of neighboring Powers such as Austria and Turkey—these scattered fragments have coalesced, without Russian assistance, and sometimes against Russian opposition, into new and apparently solid States, though with some natural jealousies along their frontier lines.

Thus Serbia has become almost one of the Great Powers, and may really attain that status if she can consolidate her new territories, keep the peace with her neighbors, and develop a trade with the world at large in place of purely local exchanges. Before her is the possibility of building up a strength that may keep steady the gusty political weather of the Balkan Peninsula. The sceptre of Slavdom has passed from Russia, and with it whatever menace there might be in a movement for a union on the largest lines of the race. Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Greater Slavia (including Jugo-Slavia) are all Slav in race, but their new interests as governments engaged in State organization divide rather than unite them.

Add to these changes in Europe the transformations that will take place throughout every part of Asiatic Turkey that is not occupied predominantly by Turks, and we have alterations in the government of the world great beyond the imaginations of the boldest minds: while through the operations of the League of Nations there seems to be at least a good prospect that disputes about the development of the backward parts of the earth inhabited by peoples in an earlier stage of progress will be avoided, and thus a constant source of friction in the past days when competing Empires were jostling each other will be removed.

WEEKLY IRISH REVIEW

IRELAND SEEN THROUGH IRISH EYES

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THE PEOPLE'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Trusting that there was some truth in the repeated pronouncements from various English optimists, that Sinn Fein was losing its grip on the Irish people, the English Government eagerly awaited the results of the recent local elections. Its optimists had misled it once more. So it has once more proceeded to gather up by wholesale, and throw into jail, the elected representatives of the people—just as, shortly after the Parliamentary election, the Parliamentary representatives were gathered up and cast into jail—forty of them out of the seventy-three. The Government seems to rely upon the peculiar logic that by jailing their representatives they can so emphatically impress the people with their dislike of the people's line of thought, that the complaisant people will begin thinking in the way that the Government desires. The Irish people can have self-determination, but they must purchase it at the Government's store, designed in such patterns, and cut in such lengths, as the Government considers wisest for wayward Irish children.

MISGUIDED POLICY

The astonishing thing that comes home to thinking people as a result of the recent arresting and imprisoning of the people's representatives is how that the English will never learn a lesson from sad experience. Every outrageous measure that England has ever taken with Ireland has, by arousing the fighting qualities of the Irish people, achieved the very opposite of what the oppressive rulers intended. Most notably has this been the case during the Sinn Fein struggle—from the shooting of Padraic Pearse and his comrades, down to this latest casting into prison of numbers whose only crime is that they were chosen as representatives by the Irish people in the normal exercise of the limited constitutional powers given them. The result is the solidifying of the people of Ireland in opposition to their English ruler, the multiplying of the power of Sinn Fein, and the more complete paralyzing of the English power in the land. To impartial outsiders the baffling thing is how that though the English plainly see these disastrous results invariably follow each successive tyrannical effort at suppression of a nation's spirit, they still stolidly continue through each step sinks them deeper in the bog. Their latest astounding move which surely must have been taken upon the counsel of some madman, will make Sinn Fein bloom.

"HOME RULE" AND COERCION

Such tyrannical proceedings as this wholesale arresting and imprisoning of people's representatives—a proceeding that could not have been paralleled in Russia in its vilest days—will seem to a sane man to be rather a queer preparation for Home Rule—yet so absolutely illogical has been the English Government's line of action toward Ireland, during years past, that most people think such is the strange intention of the strange proceeding. Just now the English people are feverishly anxious to have Ireland accept something which they in their wisdom label "Home Rule."

One big reason for the feverishness is illuminated by the Daily News' Special Correspondent in New York. The Daily News is far and away the fairest of English newspapers. Yet here is a sample of its sense of justice, prominently set forth in the views of Mr. F. W. Wilson, writing from New York: "If Parliaments are established in Ireland, any further coercion will more easily be defended here. It is coercion without Home Rule that Americans dislike." When the fairest of English journals, speaking through its own correspondent, will thus express itself, just think what must be the attitude of mind toward Ireland of the Jingo journals with which England is clamant. And there is very little doubt that Lloyd George's object in introducing his farcical Home Rule is identical with that recommended by the Daily News correspondent.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON IRELAND

The French newspapers are giving more and more attention to the Irish Question—and French sympathy is rapidly accumulating upon the Irish side. A sample of what the most eminent journalists are saying on the subject is here quoted from one of them. M. Paul Louis, writing in *Hamanite*, says: "England learns the idea of Freedom. The British Empire interested itself in the Czechs, the Poles, the Armenians, the Transylvanians, the German Colonial subjects, but it did not perceive that near at hand it was accomplishing the crimes with which it reproached Austria-Hungary, and the German and Turkish Peoples. The Irish, like many other peoples who were promised the right of self-determination, are still enslaved. Home Rule is altogether an inadequate measure,

and if the Irish problem presents itself brutally today the English people have only their statesman and politicians to blame."

AUSTRALIAN SYMPATHY

Newspaper reports of the great Irish demonstration in Melbourne for approval of Sinn Fein have just come to hand. An Englishman, Archbishop Redwood of Wellington, N. Z., who at one time spent ten years in Ireland said: "I am an Englishman and in more than one respect I am proud of my birth and my country. But in regard to Ireland's inalienable right to national independence, I am as Irish as the best Irish themselves—because I know the history of Ireland, the lamentable story of her wrongs and woes, at the hands of England. Wasn't it the shrewdest mockery and hypocrisy on our part when we were proclaiming the object of war to be the utter destruction of Prussianism, and the saving of small nations, when I today, the small nation at England's feet, in the gilded victim of the most tyrannical and outrageous Prussianism." And it was Archbishop Redwood who proposed to the wonderful gathering of one hundred thousand people, the resolution that was received and passed with amazing enthusiasm: "We affirm the right of the people of Ireland to choose their own form of Government, and to govern their country without interference from any other nation. We endorse Ireland's appeal for international recognition, and we pledge our support to Ireland's chosen leader Eamonn De Valera."

IRISH PROSPERITY

A good index of the industrial and agricultural advance of Ireland is afforded by the bank reports of the half year ending Dec. 31st. The three Southern banks, the Bank of Ireland, the National Bank, and the Munster & Leinster Bank, show twelve and a half per cent. increase in deposits over the previous half year's statements. Those three banks show deposits of 84 million pounds—pretty equally divided between three, but with the National Bank leading. They also show an increase of nearly twenty-five per cent. in discounts and advances made for the promotion of trade, agriculture, industry and commerce. Those pleasing statements are made still more pleasing by last year's trade returns which have just come out. Up till and including the year 1918 the trade returns in Ireland showed a great excess of imports over exports, usually varying from three million pounds to six million pounds, balance on the wrong side. From 1914 onward the excess happily has been the other way—and has been increasing rapidly. The last returns show an excess of almost twenty-seven million pounds of exports over imports—which is double what the excess had been in the year before.

DEVELOPMENT OF IRISH COMMERCE

The direct line of Moore McCormack steamships from New York to Cork, Dublin and Belfast is now well and firmly established—and its success proved beyond all question. The same may be said of the direct line from Dublin to Bordeaux, which has been erected around Ireland, to isolate it commercially from all the world except England. The New York sailings are bi-monthly. The advantages to be reaped by Irish merchants from this line, is apparent when we learn that, for instance, a Cork merchant desiring to ship goods to or from New York, formerly paid 35 shillings per ton freight to Liverpool, where they were reshipped to New York with Liverpool New York rates added. Now this Cork man ships direct from the pier in his own city, to New York for 50 shillings per ton, just a little more than previously carried the same goods to Liverpool, on the first leg of the journey.

SEUMAS MACMANUS OF Donegal

DEATH OF DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

Catholic News Service

One of the most distinguished Assyriologists in the world, Father John Nepomucene Strassmaier, S. J., died at the house of the Jesuit Fathers in Farm Street, a few days ago.

The deceased was born in Bavaria in 1846, as a school boy he showed a great aptitude for Hebrew and Oriental studies. After entering the Society of Jesus his studies were interrupted by his being compelled to undertake ambulance work in the Franco-Prussian War. Again his studies were broken into when in 1872 he fled to England under the stress of Bismarck's May Laws. After having taken his doctor's degree, Father Strassmaier studied at the British Museum in London in the Assyriological Department, where he made some important discoveries in research work, and established his name throughout Europe as a scholar of the highest attainments. Father Strassmaier had almost a passion for new or strange languages. He was equally familiar with a

Chinese newspaper, a Persian inscription, or some newly-discovered Indian dialect. He was much sought after by scholars from all parts of the world, and his opinions on matters of archaeology, especially Assyriology, were accepted as final. He was consulted by the Berlin Academy on matters of the highest importance connected with Assyriological discoveries.

THE IRISH QUESTION AND AMERICA

By Arthur Upham Pope in the Statesman
[Professor Arthur Upham Pope, educator, direct descendant of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, Presidents of the United States, was civilian member of the General Staff, U. S. Army, during the War.]

The Irish question is a world issue. It long ago ceased to be a private question between either the English or the Irish. What might have been merely a domestic problem has become an international scandal. As the world had to take notice of the German outrage on Belgium, the Austrian attack on Serbia, the oppression of the Armenians by the same token the world is concerned in the continued oppression of Ireland. The frustrations of their national life, the agitation, disorder, resentment and brutal waste which English tyranny is responsible for, now concern all of mankind—for freedom is not a private possession, it is no political, nor racial, nor religious, but it is universal. It is the essential right of humanity itself. Violation of the liberty of any people is an offence against all mankind.

The essence of Americanism is a passion for freedom. We fought five wars for freedom, and America has always been ready to extend a strong generous hand to people struggling to win their liberty. Let no American apologize for advocating the Irish cause. As George Washington himself said to an Irish delegation: "Your cause is one with this." Let us only explain or apologize if we are cold or indifferent to the most bitter, cruel and prolonged struggle for human freedom that the world has ever seen.

America is further bound by her profound debt to the Irish. We owe our separate existence as a nation more to the Irish than to any other people. From the beginning to the end they fought with enthusiasm and sacrifice. More than one English historian has said that the Irish element in the war of Revolution kept us keen and fierce our resolutions, and it was the British General Clinton who said: "The Irish are our chief opponents."

Thirteen Irishmen attained the rank of Generals. John Barry, born in Wexford, was the father of the American Navy. Washington's Secretary and two aides were from Ireland. Inconceivable figures show that approximately 40% of the continental army was Irish born, and the Irish people, both here and abroad, contributed money and supplies with superb generosity. Eight of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were born in Ireland. An Irishman was Secretary of the First Continental Congress. An Irishman fought in Washington across the Delaware. The White House is copied from the Lenox House in Dublin, and it was built on land owned by an Irishman. The original of Bunker Hill itself is in Ireland. No wonder Lafayette suggested that there should be a special stripe in the American flag for Ireland.

Moreover, in the late War we pledged ourselves to secure the liberty, self-government and undictated development of all peoples now oppressed, whether under the government of those we were fighting for or those we were fighting against. The many and repeated declarations of our President, which were unanimously and enthusiastically received by the American people and by the governments and peoples of Europe as a just statement of the War aim, commit us in honor to see that these aims are yet realized.

We fought for the freedom of Belgium, Serbia, Armenia and Czechoslovakia—why not for Ireland? Her claim to freedom is the equal of any.

Ireland was one of the original sovereign nations of Christendom. By unity of language, laws, religion, by common tradition and sentiments, by a common devotion to learning, poetry and art, by consciousness of a common ancestry, by an all consuming passion for liberty, by the clearest boundaries that mark any people, Ireland has existed as a nation and by a clear mandate from an unprecedented majority she has once more declared her will to be counted among the free nations of the world. The early history of Ireland shows her to be not merely a nation, but a very superior one. From the fifth to the tenth centuries Ireland was the seat of learning in Europe. In illumination, in carving, in gold and enamel work, in metal decoration as well as in philosophy and science, Ireland led all of Europe. She was the beneficent power that preserved

alive classical learning, that educated and tamed the hordes of barbarians that devastated Europe and threatened to submerge civilization.

The Irish mission, which spread all over Europe from Iceland to Syria, from Gibraltar to the Danube, was the greatest civilizing force in Europe. Every person in Europe who spoke Greek in the seventh and eighth centuries was Irish taught; in 672 every Bishop in England was Irish consecrated except one, and he was educated in Ireland. Ireland was a great and growing nation, which had maintained itself intact while the world nations fell under the blight of Vandals, Goths and Visigoths and the Danes. Ireland was at the height of her power when the English blight fell upon her, and in a succession of cruel calamities, almost without precedent in history, her life was submerged, her people broken and scattered, and her great shrines desecrated, and her people reduced to a degradation and misery that passes anything the Western world has ever known.

The history of English rule in Ireland is a story of seven centuries of unrelenting brute force, of a great and growing nation frustrated and misused by an alien power. The oppression and spoliation of a small and weak nation by mighty imperialistic bullies is just the sort of thing we entered the War for, hoping to end it forever.

Ireland's history under British rule should be kept in mind—not merely for the sake of keeping alive bitterness and resentment, hatred is never an asset—only as we look at the long and consistent story of this wrong do we see how fatal and incurable it is by anything short of complete separation. Rather it is a small group of the governing class, whose irresponsible power, and for their own economic and political advantage, have brought such misery to the Irish—add shame and perplexity to the whole English nation. And now there is no cure for this old burning sore but complete freedom for the Irish, reparation and restitution to the British. No clever and intriguing scheme of Home Rule—that seeks to patch up the trouble by verbal platitudes, but in essence defeats the people's hopes and rights—no such scheme can do more than prolong the friction and the waste.

THE PHOENIX PARK BUTCHERY

The revelations at the inquest on Laurence Kennedy and Lieutenant Boast have only confirmed what the general public thought on the morning after the murders. There was no attack on the Viceregal Lodge. There were no armed civilians. There was no cause whatever for a sortie by the guard and no excuse in the wide world for the murder of the two victims of the soldiery. But after all, in spite of the comments of a section of the press, it was neither the youth nor the state he was when the soldiers that were responsible. The soldiers did not turn out all on their own. Lieutenant Boast was not the captain of the guard. The question then is: who ordered the guard out for indiscriminate shooting and who was in charge of the guard? Before this question is answered there are some other features of the affair which must be noted. For one thing, Laurence Kennedy was quite obviously unarmed. He had every right to be where he was when he was foully and brutally murdered with out giving any cause of offence to his murderer. And, in fact, so we are informed, on the Saturday evening he was literally thrown out of the canteen at the Royal Barracks and had to get his head bandaged, as a consequence of the brutal treatment he had received there. Why, may we ask, was this not mentioned at the inquest? Again, what right had the armed military murders upon the public highway? What cause of action is going to be taken with the soldiers who swore just anything that came into their heads at the inquest? And why was no superior officer of any kind present to give evidence? These are questions the press and party libellers of the people of Dublin and Ireland will have to answer—if not to an English tribunal now, then to an Irish one later.

How many murders of just this kind are to be laid at the doors of English militarism in Ireland? An officer of the Army of Occupation has given in the Daily Herald still another instance of a similar kind in Dublin. Since the Phoenix Park affair another murder by the military has been committed in Castlebar. Then there was the Murphy murder at Dundalk and the murder of the boy scout in Clare. These are only some of the murders which have been made public. How many have not been made public? We call them murders advisedly—not justifiable or excusable if regrettable homicide. For murder is murder whether the murderer be a sentry or a member of the guard, whether he be in the uniform of a military regiment or in that of the Cossacks of the R. I. C. and D. M. P.—The Watchword of Labour.

CATHOLIC NOTES

Cardinal Gasquet, O. S. B., has been appointed librarian and archivist of the Holy See.

In the Department of the Meuse, France, nine priests, eight of whom are curates, have been nominated as Municipal Councillors.

The value of the confessional was seen recently in Halifax, when a priest handed over to a business firm the sum of \$11,000, which a penitent had asked him to return to the proper owners.

Pope Benedict has conferred upon Admiral William S. Benton, chief of naval operations of the United States the Grand Cross of St. Gregory the Great, military class. The decoration of the order will be sent to Admiral Benson through Cardinal Gibbons.

While repairing the Church of St. Francis in Ravenna, Italy, the laborers discovered a portrait of Dante, the great poet of the Middle Ages. The portrait was found in an obscure corner of the frescoed wall and was covered by the dust of many centuries.

His Eminence, Cardinal Gustin, professor of the Franciscans, recently visited Jerusalem. His presence in the Holy City was for the purpose of presiding at the festival in honor of the seven hundredth anniversary of the coming of St. Francis to the Orient.

The authorities of the canton of Basle, Switzerland, propose to modify the scholastic law on religious teaching in a manner very favorable to Catholics. Having set aside a number of hours unnecessary for religious teaching, they have placed the scholastic buildings at the disposition of priests during those hours, gratuitously.

Archbishop Austin Dowling of St. Paul has announced that the joint pastoral letter of the American Hierarchy dealing with the various problems confronting the Church in this country, will not be ready until February. The letter will contain more than 25,000 words, but a summary of about 5,000 words will be made, which will be read from every pulpit in the country.

The newly elected president of the Swiss Confederated Republic, Monsieur Mota, is a Catholic. At the same election another Swiss Catholic, M. Mury, was returned as a member of the Swiss Federal Council. M. Mury belongs to the Canton of Fribourg, where for the first time since 1848 a Catholic has been elected to the Federal Council.

The recent pastoral letter against immodest dances issued by Cardinal Amette of Paris seems to have induced the dancing masters to modify several of the most objectionable dances. A few days after the pastoral letter was issued and read in all the churches of the city, they sent a delegation to Cardinal Amette to try to reach a compromise but the Cardinal remained firm in his attitude.

Kansas City, Mo.—Kansas City gave the cold shoulder to William C. O'Connell, anti-Irish and anti-Catholic Ulster propagandist recently. Grand Avenue Temple will seat nearly a thousand people and there were exactly eighty-nine persons present at the noon meeting. Approximately the same number were at the evening meeting. At least four, or probably more, at the noon meeting were members of the Friends of Irish Freedom.

Cable advices from Paris to the Associated Press state that Marshal Foch was presented with a "golden book" by M. Kahn, French Minister to Siam, recently, as a token of the admiration of the Siamese and French citizens residing in Siam. The book offered under the patronage of the King of Siam, carried with it a check for 87,000 francs. Marshal Foch asked that this be donated to charitable organization designated by him.

The librarian of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, England, announces that the appeal, made in December, 1914, for gifts of books for the restoration of the library of Louvain University, has resulted in the collection of 21,000 volumes. The Louvain authorities have expressed their gratitude for the gifts. Since the reopening of the University in January, 1919, 3,200 students have been in attendance. Temporary premises have been secured as a library, pending the erection of the new building.

Among the distinguished scholars appointed to a committee to enquire into the position assigned to the Latin and Greek classes in the university educational system of Great Britain, is Father Henry S. Browne, S. J. Father Browne is a member of the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus and professor of Greek in University College, Dublin. He is a distinguished classical scholar, and former vice-president of the Classical Association of Ireland. He is the author of several handbooks on Latin and Greek composition.