

SHORT CATECHISM
OF THE
Seven Hundred and Fifty Years War

By Dr. T. E. McEoin

Question. Name the longest war in history?

Answer. The Seven Hundred and Fifty -years of war between England and Ireland.

Q. When did this war begin?

A. In A. D. 1169.

Q. Who were the kings reigning in England and in Ireland at that time?

A. Henry II. was king of England, and Roderick O'Connor was king of Ireland.

Q. Who, and what caused this war?

A. England, by interfering in Ireland's internal affairs.

Q. How would you characterize this war on part of England? on part of Ireland?

A. On England's part, a war of aggression; on Ireland's part a war of defence.

One Use of Religion In the War

Q. Did Henry II give any reason for this act of aggression of his?

A. Yes. Henry said he wanted to reform the Irish people religiously.

Q. Then Henry brought in Religion as an aid: Did Henry reform the Irish people religiously?

A. Henry tried to take away from the Irish people all their lands, allotting these among his court favorites and military Chiefs.

Q. Did Henry II produce any authority in the way of credentials investing him with the rights of a reformer?

A. Henry displayed a document before the clergy in synod assembled at Cashel, purporting to be a papal Bull entitling him to such action. This document has been regarded by learned men as false, fictitious and non-papal. At any rate, the Irish claim that neither Henry nor the pope had any basic right to do as Henry actually did in Ireland.

Q. Have any other English rulers, Statesmen, or politicians used religion as a cloak for their interfering in Irish internal affairs?

A. Yes, many of them.

Q. Name some of these?

A. Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth, James I, Queen Anne, Oliver Cromwell, William III and we might add,