

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE...

DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS

IRELAND

THE IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY AND THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

Mr Redmond has handed for publication a copy of his letter of October 7th, addressed to the Secretaries of the Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops...

Dublin, 7th October, 1902.

My Lords—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordships' letter, which reached my hands late last night. I am very grateful for your courteous promptitude in forwarding it to me...

That the Irish Party attend in strength at the opening of Parliament and avail themselves of the motion for taking the full time of the House of motions for the adjournment of the House, or otherwise, to denounce the Coercion regime...

That the Chairman of the Party be requested to reply to the courteous communication from the Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops...

The Party are deeply sensible to the heavy burthens which the present Board School system imposes on our Catholic fellow-countrymen in England, and the dangers to which it exposes them...

As regards the present situation, there is nothing to be revised. The determination of the Party had reference exclusively to the time of Mr. Redmond's absence in America.

considered in the light thrown upon it by Cardinal Vaughan in his impressive appeal. And we would ask you to say to your colleagues that we should wish them to regard His Eminence's letter as if it were addressed to them by our Committee.

JOHN, Bishop of Clonfert, RICHARD ALPHONSUS, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Secretaries.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.

The following letter appears in The Evening Telegraph.

To the Editor of The Evening Telegraph

Archbishop's House, Dublin, 27th November, 1902. Dear Sir—I fear that a very false impression may be conveyed by a statement in the article headed "Reason and Faction" in The Evening Telegraph of yesterday.

You say "The Hierarchy, who have a special right to speak on educational matters, have expressed the view that the Party, meaning the Irish Parliamentary Party, 'with advantage revise their determination.'"

I cannot see how the misconception that so plainly underlies those words can have arisen. It is matter of public notoriety that the only action taken by "the Hierarchy" in the matter in question was taken before the determination of the Irish Parliamentary Party was arrived at.

As regards the present situation, there is nothing to be revised. The determination of the Party had reference exclusively to the time of Mr. Redmond's absence in America.

WILLIAM J. WALSH, Archbishop of Dublin

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN REDMOND.

Mr John Redmond, M.P., Chairman of the Irish Party, asks us to publish the following letter, which he has addressed to the members of the Irish Party.

My Dear Sir—I have noted with deep concern that the actions of the members of the Irish Parliamentary Party in remaining in Ireland during the closing stages of the English Education Bill has been misunderstood by very many sincere friends of the National cause, and especially by the Irish Bishops, who, of course, on a question of this kind have a special right to have their views listened to with the deepest respect.

I pay no attention to the utterances of those who are well known enemies of the present movement and Party, and who are manifestly using the present situation, not in the interest of Catholic education, but in the interest of disruption and dissension.

It may be well to record the fact that on the Second Reading of this Bill, and during the very many weary weeks of the Committee Stage, up to August last, when the Bill might be held to be in real jeopardy, the Party remained in London, at great sacrifice, and voted solidly for the measure, though those members of Parliament who now clamor about their interest in Catholic Education remained almost entirely absent.

When I returned from America I anxiously considered whether we could gain anything by then resuming attendance in the House of Commons and I was forced to the conclusion that all we could do would be to swell an already enormous Government majority in favor of clauses of the Bill which were in no danger whatever, or else vote now and again

The facts of the position now are, that the Bill has passed through the Report Stage in the House of Commons. Its only remaining danger is in the House of Lords. It is possible, though not, in my opinion, probable that it may be injured in the House of Lords, or on the other hand some improvements, from our point of view, may be made in its provisions in either case, the presence of the Irish members in the House of Commons, when the measure returns to that Assembly, may be of real importance.

For these reasons, and in deference to the strong views expressed by the Irish Hierarchy on a subject upon which they have a special right to speak with authority, I have to request you to hold yourself in readiness to come to London immediately should you receive a telegraphic whisp, which will be sent to you should the contingency I have mentioned arise. I remain, etc.

JOHN E. REDMOND

LESSONS FROM IRISH HISTORY

Hugh O'Neil at Clonmel (By Mr Barry O'Brien, in Dublin Freeman's Journal)

On August 13th, 1649, Oliver Cromwell sailed from Millford Haven for Ireland. On the 15th he reached Drogheda, and on the 3rd of September appeared before Drogheda with an army of 10,000 men.

Cromwell's excuse for the atrocities committed at Drogheda was, that the massacre would prove a salutary example, and that the rest of Ireland would calmly submit. He says "I am persuaded that this is a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches who have imbrued their hands in so much innocent blood, and that it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future."

The people of Wexford, undeterred by the "example" of Drogheda, fought to the death for their homes and liberties, hence they paid the penalty in their own persons. "This town," wrote Cromwell to Lenthall, "is now so in your power that of the former inhabitants I believe scarce one in twenty can challenge any property in their houses."

The "example" of Drogheda was now fortified by the example of Wexford, yet what happened at Waterford? Cromwell arrived before that town in November, and to quote Mr Gardiner, "found his undertakings desperate." The inhabitants acted with spirit and self-confidence. They refused not only to surrender, but they would not allow Cromwell, representing the Royal cause, to enter it, believing, and believing rightly, that he had the interests rather of the English King than the interests of Ireland at heart.

At eight o'clock on the morning of the 9th Cromwell gave the order to storm the breach. The stormers advanced rapidly, singing hymns. On approaching the breach they found no obstructions. They entered it without opposition. They reached the middle of the lane and not a soul was to be seen.

were not covered by the "example" of Drogheda. It is to be found in the defence of Clonmel by Hugh O'Neil. Hugh O'Neil was the nephew of Owen Roe O'Neil, and had served under that great commander in the Low Countries, ultimately following him to Ireland to fight for Faith and Fatherland.

Cromwell continued his battery all Monday and Tuesday till about four of the clock in the afternoon. Having made a breach which he judged assaultable, he assaulted it, and, being twice beaten off, the third time he carried it, all his officers and soldiers promising quarter to such as would lay down their arms, and performing it as long as any place held out, which encouraged others to yield. But when they had once all in their power, and feared no hurt that could be done them, then the word no quarter went round, and the soldiers were, many of them, forced against their wills to kill their prisoners.

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On the morning of the 10th of May Cromwell entered Clonmel, but he found no garrison, no military stores, no "furniture of war." Hugh O'Neil and his Ulster Celts were gone. Old men, old women and children alone remained behind. Cromwell kept the treaty.

This is what happened in the interval. Hugh O'Neil had fired his last shot in driving the stormers back on the 9th of May. Not only was his ammunition spent, but all provisions were exhausted. The fall of the town was inevitable. In these circumstances O'Neil sent for the Mayor and said he proposed to withdraw the garrison under the cover of the night, for the rest, he directed the Mayor to open communications with Cromwell for the surrender of the town. Some hours after the garrison had departed the Mayor, as we have seen, carried out these directions admirably, and so the garrison was saved to fight another day, and honorable terms were obtained for the citizens. Cromwell was beaten in battle and outwitted in negotiations. Shortly after the surrender of Clonmel he returned to England, leaving Ireton and Ludlow to finish his work in Ireland.

Hugh O'Neil marched from Clonmel to Waterford, and thence to Limerick, where the citizens immediately appointed him Governor in 1651. Ireton appeared before the walls. The plague was raging in the town, as in so many towns of Ireland at that time, but O'Neil would not surrender. Ireton opened his batteries, and soon made a breach, but the stormers were repelled, as they had been repelled at Clonmel. The siege dragged on for four months. O'Neil, struggling under great difficulties—famine, pestilence, internal discord (for the town was full of Ormondists ever ready to treat with the enemy) gallantly held out. At length when garrison and citizens were stricken with sickness, and when provisions were exhausted, he surrendered on honorable terms. The inhabitants were guaranteed life, liberty, property, but O'Neil himself and all who took a leading part with him in the defence were excepted from the treaty. On the 29th of October, 1651 O'Neil gave up the keys to Ireton.



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The Standing Committee have had under consideration the published letter recently addressed to you upon the grave matter by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. That letter so fully expresses our views that we feel it quite unnecessary to add a word to what has been so forcibly said by His Eminence. We assume that, in case the matter referred to should come under consideration at tomorrow's meeting, it will be con-

When I returned from America I anxiously considered whether we could gain anything by then resuming attendance in the House of Commons and I was forced to the conclusion that all we could do would be to swell an already enormous Government majority in favor of clauses of the Bill which were in no danger whatever, or else vote now and again

After the treaty had been signed, Cromwell asked the Mayor if O'Neil knew that he had come to surrender the town. The Mayor replied "No," for that O'Neil and the garrison had departed two hours before. Then we are told that Cromwell flew into a rage, and said to the Mayor "You know, have you served me so and did you not tell me so before?" The Mayor replied "If your Excellency had demanded the question I would tell you." Cromwell then told the Mayor to give back the paper. But the Mayor pressed him not "to break the conditions, or take them back, which was not the repute his Excellency had, but to perform whatsoever he promised." Cromwell, growing calmer, next asked what manner of man was this Hugh O'Neil, and the Mayor replied that "he was an over-the-sea soldier who had been born in Spain," and Cromwell answered, "I will follow this Hugh O'Neil wherever he goes."

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