

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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WEEKLY IRISH REVIEW

IRELAND SEEN THROUGH IRISH EYES

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A GOOD HARVEST

The political situation in Ireland has so much absorbed public attention that hardly any thought has been given by outsiders to the other phases of Irish life—for instance to the material welfare or otherwise of the nation. During my past five months' sojourn in Ireland, I was as much interested in this phase as I was in the political. At the outset I, like many another, feared and prophesied a coming famine as a result of both the destruction and the neglect of agriculture. Now that the harvest is in I am extremely glad to realize and to confess that it was a false prophecy.

IN SPITE OF THE RAIN

One thing which much increased one's fear during the summer was the inordinate amount of rain that fell—an amount which one would think would ruin the crops. There seems to have been a wet wave all over the northern latitudes during the past summer—and whenever heaven dispenses its moisture it always seems that Ireland is blessed with a tenfold dose. Because of the prevailing south-west winds which, travelling over thousands of miles of ocean, part with their moisture when they strike the Irish mountains, Ireland is the wettest of any of the countries. There we have rain, much or little, on three hundred days of the year. The story is told of a disgusted English tourist at Killarney who, having suffered ten days of a continuous, fine, mizzling kind of rain, a really gentle and lovely rain, despairingly appealed to the jarvey who was driving him around—"Is it always raining like this here?"—and received the truly comforting reply, "Arrah! Not at all sir; sometimes it comes down in bucketfuls!" Though I might pause to mention that as Killarney is the rainiest spot in rainy Ireland, rain often comes down there in solid blocks, ten miles every winter. Yet in justice it must be said that in every part of Ireland, on very many of what would be called the rainy days of the year, sun and rain intermingle and if you are wetted to the hide one hour our genial sun will the next hour make you as dry as the State of Kansas.

Although during three of the months of this last summer I did not meet with six completely dry days on my mountains in Donegal, it was a pleasant surprise to me to find the crops continue to flourish as they had seldom seemed to flourish ever before, and when it came to the hay saving season, the hay itself seemed to be saved, and pretty well saved at that, between showers. As might be expected from a wet summer, the grass was uncommonly rich and gave a plentiful crop—so that as a consequence the hay which during the winter had sold at from 5s. to 10s. per hundred weight (112 lbs.) is now selling at about 5s., and so much of it is there that it is predicted it will be got still cheaper in the spring.

POTATOES GOOD

A good crop of potatoes would hardly be expected as a result of an inordinately wet summer. Yet, strange to say, there has not been in Ireland for many years such a tubercle and splendid crop of that vegetable which some wit described as the National Bird of Ireland. The excessive rain, it was expected, would blight the crop much earlier—yet the fatal blight this year came much later in Ireland than it usually does. But though I have frequently seen the potato crop blight in the last week of July, the crop was still fairly green in the third week of August. In some measure this was due to better, more plentiful, and more thorough, spraying of the growing crop with the anti-blight copperas compound. Anyhow, the Irish potato crop this year is magnificent. As it is the great staple crop, there seems a comfortable and prosperous year ahead for the nation, and it means that for a year to come anyhow there cannot be any widespread want in the country.

PRICES HAVEN'T FALLEN

There were about six hundred thousand acres of the potato crop, and the yield of these was 33% above the average. Yet such is the tendency everywhere to keep prices up, that although there were more potatoes produced than the country can within itself eat, they were being sold in the towns at 10d. and a shilling per stone (14 lbs.), where formerly in average years they were sold for 8d. and 4d.

And while the apple crop in Ireland was also so plentiful that the fruit is a glut in the market, apples were being sold at from 9s. to 15s. per barrel wholesale—and are being retailed at more than double that rate.

The corn crop was very late in ripening—again because of the

plentitude of rain and the lack of sun. Yet it was successfully harvested, and the yield was a good average. The acreage in flax fell by one half. Last year only twenty-five thousand acres of flax were raised—because the farmers had got what they called "no price" for their crop the previous year. Even the half supply of flax this year would not be in brisk demand—a main reason being because of the new United States tariff which imposes 35% duty on imported linen goods.

UNEMPLOYMENT

There is a large amount of unemployment in Ireland—but still, of course, nothing at all approaching the amount of unemployment in England, Scotland, and the continental countries. In the City of Dublin, for instance, with its upward of three hundred thousand population, the numbers of registered unemployed were, a few weeks ago,

Men.....8,502
Women.....2,505
Boys.....485
Girls.....356
Total.....11,848

and the numbers in Dublin are much higher than the average for the rest of the country. Unemployment benefits are being paid by the government to all the registered out-of-workers. In the current year an amount of one million pounds will thus have been paid out of the government treasury. There has been a decrease of 20% in the numbers of unemployed in the last nine months. The decrease would, of course, have been very much more marked, only for the disturbed condition of the country.

FIGHTING BECAUSE OUT OF WORK

In fact one of the legislators, the well known Darrell Figgis, recently instituting a debate on the subject in the Dail, complained that the amount of fighting in Ireland kept pace with the amount of unemployment. He alleged that the fighters were chiefly unemployed men—and declared that if the government found work for their unemployed they would also find a short cut to the termination of the civil war. Figgis said:

"How many fully-employed persons engaged themselves in irregular warfare, whatever their political opinions? Obviously none. Fully-employed persons, whatever their political opinions, are asking only that they should be permitted peacefully to get on with their jobs. It is not obvious, therefore, that in order to bring an end to the present strife, the first step must be to increase the number of this kind of person and to decrease the number of the other kind of person? If those who are now among the irregulars were engaged in building roads, they could scarcely themselves at the same time be engaged in destroying them. By widening the area of men employed in construction you would be at the same moment diminishing the area of those who are now employed in destruction. And, in any case, my contention is that such construction will have to be begun before we can hope to put an end to irregularism."

EMIGRATION

Emigration from Ireland has nearly ceased—partly as a result of the immigration limitations imposed on emigrants by the United States and also for another important reason. This important reason is that there has been more prosperity in Ireland during the past decade than had been the case before that, and as a consequence the boys and girls had not so much need to fly from the country. They can find more employment, a better wage and more comfortable living at home. The rooting out of the land-lord curse the result of a long and terrific land league struggle, made a new man of the Irish farmer. The removal of the grinding over-lord, and the undisputed possession of his own patch of land, have given him hope and stimulus, ease of mind and comfort. He has farmed more, farmed better, and more scientifically, during the past dozen years—and he and his family get out of life an enjoyment that in the olden time was denied them. The returning Irish-American will today be struck by the fact that there is very much more money in the country than used to be before he first left home. And another fact, the many people who have money today are much freer in the spending of it and the circulating of it than were the few who formerly had money. They wear better clothes; they keep a very much better table; they take advantage of more of the luxuries and of the enjoyment of life, than they used to do. A good index of this is the prevalence of the automobile. There isn't a little village in the remotest part of the mountains that has not got its Henry Ford. Some little villages have half a dozen. And many mountain boys who, in former days, almost strained their imagination when they thought of the possibility of their some day riding a bicycle, are now adepts at the steering wheel of the Ford.

NO LONGER BLEEDING TO DEATH

For three quarters of a century Ireland's population had been precipitately falling—falling at a rate practically unknown in any other country of the globe. The oppressive British laws and the oppressive British landlords and the industrial and commercial starvation of Ireland, which was part of Britain's trade policy, deprived the people of the means of support, and drove them forth from their native land to the corners of the earth. The population dropped from nearly nine millions in the forties of last century, to less than half of that number a dozen years ago. So rapidly and steadily and continuously did this fearful decline go on that some thought the Irish race was doomed to extinction. It was gratifying, then, to know that this fearful decline has abruptly stopped—not merely stopped, but a positive, though still very small, increase in population is noted. Ten years from now the increase in Irish population will be marked. The combination of reasons that have caused the turning tide may be explained as—first, the getting hold of their own land by the farmers; second, the cessation of emigration; third, a marked increase in the marriage rate—and consequently in the birth rate. Both the stoppage of emigration and the increased prosperity account for the increase in the marriages. The young people because of improved opportunity for subsisting have been encouraged in recent years to marry at an early age—putting it colloquially to marry early and often. While the material damage done during the recent fighting means a very important loss to Ireland, it is very far from being the staggering blow which the same loss would have meant a generation or even half a generation ago. The taxes which are at present very high will, as a consequence of the fighting, be heavier still during the decade that is coming. But if the fighting were once settled—which please God it will within six months be—the Ireland of today is so vigorous and there is such a plenitude of good red blood pulsing through its system, that it will not be seriously affected by the heavy imports. Things in Ireland just now are very far from being as dark as the outside world believes. There are, to be sure, grey clouds hanging over and dimming the lustre of the Green Ireland, but there is behind them a cheery sun which will soon disperse them. The Sunburst of Ireland will lay a bright smile on the face of the world.

SEUMAS MACMANUS,
264 West 94th Street,
New York City.

FRENCH MINISTER'S TRIBUTE

The French Minister of Agriculture, Senator Cheron, during a visit to Dax, in the Landes, the native country of Saint Vincent de Paul, where he had gone to preside at a civic function, paid a remarkable tribute to the bishop of the diocese, Msgr. de Cormont. The bishop had gone to the town hall to present to the Minister the compliments of the clergy, and was preparing to withdraw, with his priests, when M. Cheron placed his hand on his arm, and asked him to go with him to the portico, and present himself to the crowd assembled in the garden. There the Minister made an address, and after having publicly greeted in the person of Bishop de Cormont the representative of Him who said "Love one another," M. Cheron declared that the ideal of the Republic was to love one another and help one another, and that the people of the Landes province were able, better than any other, to realize this ideal, since they had given to the world the immortal hero of devotion and charity whose name was Vincent de Paul.

GERMAN CATHOLICS AND THE JEWS

The Catholics of Germany have refused to participate in the campaign of Anti-Semitism that is being carried on at the instigation of the reactionary interests just now. As an indication of the attitude of the Catholic element, the following declaration has been made in a letter written by the President of the Center Party to the Union of German Jews:

"Anti-Semitism is also the enemy of Christianity and Catholicism. We cannot deny that the seeming return of the German people to the cult of the worship of the old German gods is an anti-Christian movement indeed. The Catholics, at any rate, must refuse to support anti-Semitic efforts because our religion enjoins us against harboring hatred for our fellow men even though they be not of our Faith." The letter cites the murder of Dr. Rathenau as an example of the effects of hate-producing propaganda and asserts that anti-Semitic agitation is of the same nature as that which produced the Rathenau assassination.

PASTORAL LETTER

THE IRISH BISHOPS DEAL FEARLESSLY WITH SITUATION

Though summaries of this Pastoral Letter have appeared in this press and in our own columns the importance of the pronouncement warrants its reproduction in full.

The following is the text of the Letter addressed to the Priests and People of Ireland:

"The present state of Ireland is a sorrow and humiliation to its friends all over the world. To us Irish Bishops it is, because of the moral and religious issues at stake, a source of the most painful anxiety.

A BYWORD AMONG THE NATIONS

"Our country that but yesterday was so glorious is now a byword before the nations for a domestic strife as disgraceful as it is criminal and suicidal. A section of the community, refusing to acknowledge the Government set up by the nation, have chosen to attack their own country as if she were a foreign Power. Forgetting, apparently, that a dead nation cannot be free, they have deliberately set out to make our Motherland, as far as they could, a heap of ruins. They have wrecked Ireland from end to end, burning and destroying national property of enormous value, breaking roads, bridges, and railways, seeking by this insensate blockade to starve the people or bury them in social stagnation.

"They have caused more damage to Ireland in three months than could be laid to the charge of British rule in so many decades.

NOT WAR BUT MURDER

"They carry on what they call a war, but which, in the absence of any legitimate authority to justify it, is morally only a system of murder and assassination of the National that killing in an unjust war is as much murder before God as if there were no war. They ambush military lorries in the crowded streets, thereby killing and wounding not only the soldiers of the nation, but peaceful citizens. They have, to our horror, shot bands of these troops on their way to Mass on Sunday, and set mine traps in the public roads and blown to fragments some of the bravest Irishmen that ever lived.

"Side by side with this woful destruction of life and property there is running a campaign of plunder—raiding banks and private houses, seizing the lands and property of others, burning mansions and country houses, destroying demesnes and slaying cattle.

GENERAL DEMORALIZATION

"But even worse and sadder than this physical ruin is the general demoralization created by this unhappy revolt—demoralization especially of the young, whose minds are being poisoned by false principles, and their young lives utterly spoiled by early association with cruelty, robbery, falsehood, and crime.

"Religion itself is not spared. We observe with deepest sorrow that a certain section is engaged in a campaign against the Bishops, whose pastoral office they would silence by calumny and intimidation; and they have done the priest-hood of Ireland, whose services and sacrifices for their country will be historic, the insult of suggesting a habit of sinning to them to brow-beat their Bishops and revolt against their authority.

"And in spite of all this sin and crime, they claim to be good Catholics and demand at the hands of the Church her most sacred privileges, like the sacraments reserved for her worthy members. When we think what these young men were only a few months ago, so many of them generous, kind-hearted, and good, and see them now, involved in the net-work of crime, our hearts are filled with bitterest anguish.

MORAL DEGENERATION

"It is almost inconceivable how decent Irish boys could degenerate so tragically and reconcile such a mass of criminality with their duties to God and to Ireland. The strain on our country for the last few years will account for much of it. Vanity, perhaps self-conceit, may have blinded some who think that they, and not the nation, must dictate the national policy. Greed for land, love of loot, and anarchy, have affected others, and they, we regret to say, are not a few; but the main cause of this demoralization is to be found in false notions on social morality.

EFFECTS OF LONG STRUGGLE

"The long struggle of centuries against foreign rule and misrule has weakened respect for civil authority in the national conscience. This is a great misfortune, a great drawback, and a great peril for our young Government. For no nation can live where the civil sense of obedience, to authority and law is

not firmly and religiously maintained. And, if Ireland is ever to realize anything but a miserable destiny of anarchy, all classes of her citizens must cultivate respect for, and obedience to, the Government set up by the nation in whatever shape it takes, while acting within the Law of God.

"This difficulty is now being cruelly exploited for the ruin, as we see, of Ireland. The claim is now made that a minority are entitled, when they think it right, to take arms and destroy the National Government. Last April, foreseeing the danger, we raised our voice in the most solemn manner against this disruptive and immoral principle. We pointed out to our young men the conscientious difficulties in which it would involve them, and warned them against it. Disregard for Divine Law they had down by the Bishops is the chief cause of all our present sorrows and calamities.

AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING

"We now again authoritatively renew that teaching, and warn our Catholic people that they are conscientiously bound to abide by it, subject of course to an appeal to the Holy See. No one is justified in rebelling against the legitimate Government, whatever it is, set up by the nation, and acting within its rights. The opposite doctrine is false; contrary to Christian morals, and opposed to the constant teaching of the Church. 'Let every soul, says St. Paul, be subject to the higher powers—that is, to the legitimate authority of the State.'

"From St. Paul downwards the Church has inculcated obedience to authority as a divine duty, as well as a social necessity, and has rebaptized unauthorised rebellion as sinful in itself, and destructive of social stability, as it manifestly is, for, if one section of the community has that right, so have other sections the same right, until we end in general anarchy. No Republican can evade this teaching by asserting that the legitimate authority in Ireland is not the present Dail or Provisional Government. There is no other, and cannot be, outside the body of the people. A Republic without popular recognition behind it is a contradiction in terms.

"Such being Divine Law, the guerilla warfare now being carried on by the irregulars is without moral sanction, and, therefore, the killing of National soldiers in the furniture and other fittings were seized and carried away by people in the neighbourhood. We remind them that all such property belongs in justice to the original owners, and now must be preserved for, and restored to them by those who hold them.

"We desire to impress on the people the duty of supporting the National Government, whatever it is, to set their faces resolutely against disorder, to pay their taxes, rents, and annuities, and to assist the Government in every possible way to restore order and establish peace. Unless they learn to do so they can have no Government, and if they have no Government, they can have no nation.

POIGNANT SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY

"We issue this Pastoral Letter under the grievous sense of our responsibility, mindful of the charge laid upon us by our Divine Master to preach His doctrine and safeguard His sacred rule of faith and morals at any cost. We must, in the words of St. Peter, 'Obey God, rather than man.'

"With all earnestness we appeal to the leaders in this saddest revolt to rise above their own feelings, to remember the claim of God and the sufferings of the people in their conscience, and to abandon methods which they now know, beyond the shadow of a doubt are unCatholic and immoral, and look to the realization of their ideals along lines sanctioned by Divine Law and society.

"Let them not think that we are insensible to their feelings. We think of them with compassion, carrying, as they do, on their shoulders a heavy responsibility for what is now happening in Ireland.

THE NATURE OF AN OATH

"Once more we wish to appeal to the young men in this movement, in the name of God, to return to their innocent homes and make, if necessary, the big sacrifice of their feelings for the common good. And surely it is no humiliation, having done their best, to abide by the verdict of Ireland. We know that some of them are troubled and held back by the oath they took. A lawful oath is, indeed, a sacred bond between God and man; but no oath can bind any man to carry on a warfare against his own country in circumstances forbidden by the law of God. It would be an offence to God, and to the very nature of an oath to say so!

"We therefore, hope and pray that they will take advantage of the Government's present offer, and make peace with their own country—a peace which will bring both happiness and honor to themselves and joy to Ireland generally, and to the friends of Ireland all over the world.

MORAL SENSE BADLY SHAKEN

"In this lamentable upheaval the moral sense of the people has, we fear, been badly shaken. We read with horror of the many unauthorized murders recorded in the press. With feelings of shame we observe that when country houses and public buildings were destroyed the furniture and other fittings were seized and carried away by people in the neighbourhood. We remind them that all such property belongs in justice to the original owners, and now must be preserved for, and restored to them by those who hold them.

"We desire to impress on the people the duty of supporting the National Government, whatever it is, to set their faces resolutely against disorder, to pay their taxes, rents, and annuities, and to assist the Government in every possible way to restore order and establish peace. Unless they learn to do so they can have no Government, and if they have no Government, they can have no nation.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING

"As human effort is fruitless without God's blessing, we exhort our priests and people to continue the prayers already ordered, and we direct that the remaining October Devotions be offered up for peace. We also direct that a Novena to the Irish Saints for the same end be said in all public churches and oratories, and in semi-public oratories, to begin on the 25th of October, and end on November 4th, the Feast of all the Irish Saints. These Novena Devotions, in addition to the Rosary and Benediction, may include a special prayer for Ireland and the Litany of the Irish Saints."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (U. S.)

W. W. Husband, Commissioner-General of Immigration will outline the federal program of immigration at the second annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women to be held in Washington November 21-25.

"What the National Catholic Welfare Bureau of Immigration is doing through the National headquarters and at the ports of New York, Philadelphia and Seattle" will be explained by Mr. Bruce M. Mohler, director of the Bureau.

The welfare work at Ellis Island and the follow-up work in New York City and Detroit will be presented by N. C. W. C. representatives at those points.

Mr. Joseph I. Breen who has just returned from Europe where he spent one year making an intensive survey of immigration problems will make his report. Another interesting international report will be given by Miss Mary C. Tinney of the Department of Public Welfare of New York City who represented the National Council of Catholic Women at four International Conferences in Europe.

Other subjects to be discussed at the convention are "Women in Industry," "Problems in Rural Districts," "Social Legislation," "Education" and "The Place of Women in the Professions."

CATHOLIC NOTES

Paris, Oct. 20.—Rev. Father Bede, a religious of the Order of Saint Benedict, and pastor of the Cathedral of Gurk, in Carinthia, has come to France, for the purpose of soliciting French aid for the orphanages and hospital of Austria.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 30.—Church vestments or regalia, when ordered abroad for a particular church; upon affidavit of the pastor, are entitled to free entry under the new tariff law, the Treasury Department has ruled this week.

The Hierarchy of England, Scotland and Wales, it is announced, intend to petition the Holy See "to hold the Apostolic Process in order to raise the 253 English martyrs, now styled Venerable, to the honor of beatification."

From 1822 to 1922 the Catholic population has increased in Norway and Sweden from 100 to 5,147; in Denmark, from 100 to 8,780; in Holland and Luxembourg from 350,000 to 1,950,000; in North Germany from 60,000 to 409,000.

The Flowing Tide in 1920 Conversions in England reports: West-
Brentwood, 387; Birmingham, 995; Clifton, 285; Cardiff, 292; Hexham and New-castle, 1,447; Leeds, 773; Liverpool, 1,991; Menevia, 75; Middleburgh, 498; Northampton, 265; Nottingham, 468; Plymouth, 256; Portsmouth, 276; Salford, 1,880; Shrewsbury, 351; Southwark, 1,065.

A joint Pastoral signed by the Cardinals and Archbishops as well as the thirty-seven Bishops, has been addressed to the Spanish people, calling upon them to join in a nation-wide social campaign. The Bishop program extends from the creation of a university for workmen, the strengthening of the Catholic press, to a scheme for old age pensions.

Cleveland, Oct. 28.—Meetings each Friday noon have been arranged in a downtown hotel for members of the three councils of the Knights of Columbus in this city. Lunch is served and a talk not to exceed fifteen minutes is the program. The new arrangement among the Cleveland Columbians is similar to a program followed by a number of other local organizations.

Stockbridge, Oct. 30.—The opening of a new Jesuit novitiate for the sub-province of New England in this city, is said to be fore-shadowed by the acquisition of Shadow Brook, a mansion occupied for several summers by Andrew Carnegie as a summer estate. The mansion, said to be acquired at a cost of \$400,000 was constructed twenty years ago for Anson Phelps Stokes and is one of the most imposing in the New England States.

Cologne, Oct. 16.—Vigorous measures are being taken by the Catholics of Bavaria to resist attempts to abolish the religious schools in that country. Under the auspices of the Bavaria Hierarchy a petition urging the retention of the religious schools has been circulated throughout the country with the exception of the small area included in the Sara district. So far, 4,194,067 persons have signed the petition.

Cologne, Oct. 16.—The university city of Heidelberg, long the seat of the Electors Palatine, recently witnessed the unique sight of a Catholic convention when the German Union of Catholic Academicians assembled there for its annual meeting. There were 1,500 delegates and visitors, all of whom pledged themselves to faithful obedience to the Church in matters of conscience. Reports presented during the convention show that the Union now has 17,000 members and 400 local organizations.

Boston, Oct. 30.—Rev. Michael J. Murphy, chaplain of the Massachusetts State Prison, Charlestown, has just been elected president of the Prison Chaplain Association of the United States. He is the first Catholic to hold the office. The meeting of the organization was held in Chicago. Father Murphy, who was ordained in June, 1908, was appointed Catholic chaplain at the prison in 1911, and three years later was made official chaplain of the institution.

Paris, Oct. 30.—An interesting celebration, at which the Minister of Public Instruction presided, was held at Grenoble on the occasion of the centennial of Champollion, the noted Egyptologist who was the first to decipher hieroglyphics. In connection with the celebration, a solemn religious service was celebrated at the Cathedral by the bishop, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Father Yves de la Briere, Professor of International Law at the Catholic Institute of France. Father de la Briere is the great nephew of Champollion.