

WILLIAM STEAD ON JOHN REDMOND.

Mr. William T. Stead, editor of the Review of Reviews, and one of the foremost English critics of men and events, has just published a most laudatory criticism of Mr. John Redmond, M.P., leader of the Irish Party in a series of publications which Mr. Stead is issuing, entitled "Coming Men on Coming Questions."

The tribute which Mr. Stead in an introductory article pays to Mr. Redmond's ability as a statesman and leader—the sense in which the editor of the Review of Reviews uses the word "politician"—is all the more remarkable because for several years previous to Mr. Redmond's selection as leader of the Irish Party, Mr. Stead was one of his most relentless and unsparring critics. His recognition of the capacity of the Irish leader is, therefore, all the more instructive and significant.

"There are many things doubtful about the Parliament that is about to be elected," says Mr. Stead in his article. "But two things are certain. One is that the Unionists will be in a minority in the next House of Commons. The other is that the Nationalist Irishmen will come back as strong as they have ever been; that is to say, they will be in a majority of more than 5 to 1 over all other Irishmen in the House."

JOHN REDMOND THE FIGHTING CHIEF OF THE IRISH PARTY. "And of these four score stout-hearted fighting men, John Redmond is the fighting chief. His undisputed supremacy is emphasized rather than impaired by the solitary howl of 'Tiger Tim,' the outcast orator, the disclaimed Thersites, who roams outside the camp."

"If only the Irish had not been forced by one hundred years of wrong into an attitude of irreconcilable opposition to the British empire and the Government thereof, Mr. Redmond would have had a better chance than most men to be Prime Minister. He has the qualities of the post. He is a gentleman. He is the greatest of our modern parliamentarians. He is an admirable debater, a superb leader, a man of dispassionate intellect, of sound sympathies and of splendid courage, and he has around him a group of colleagues, half a dozen of whom would grace any cabinet."

"The Irish 'team,' said an observer, who did not disguise his hatred, 'is too strong for any of the English ministers to tackle.' The self-inflicted ostracism of some of the most capable representatives of the people is one of the many sacrifices which afflict us as the indirect result of home rule."

"Fortunately, no self-denying ordinance forbids an Irish Nationalist leading the opposition, and it will be long remembered, to Mr. Redmond's credit, that, from 1900 to 1902, it was he, and no other, who was the real leader of the only opposition offered to the Government on the subject of the war in South Africa."

LEADER OF THE ONLY EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION. "In those black years he proved himself to be not only the chief of the Irish National party, but the leader of the only effective opposition that existed in the House of Commons at that time. In that position he occupied a place in the British Constitution only second in importance to that of the Prime Minister."

"It is true that at that time national prejudices somewhat obscured the truth from the English and Scotch. But in the House of Commons the members in 1900 began to realize where the centre of power lay. Repeatedly, in the course of the debates, Mr. Balfour referred to Mr. Redmond as if he, and not Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, were the real leader of His Majesty's opposition. Therein Mr. Balfour pays homage to facts."

"In the midst of the debris of the shattered party which then littered the Liberal benches in the House of Commons we should have looked in vain for any leadership had it not been for the presence of Mr. Redmond

at the head of the Irish Nationalists. Here, at least, we had an organized, disciplined party, obedient to its leader, undistracted by any internal feuds, thoroughly united in principle and capable of constant attendance at the House.

A GREAT POSITION FOR SO YOUNG A MAN.

"English, Scotch and Welsh Liberals in the constituency, who were sick at heart over the spectacle of paralytic impotence presented by the disorganized and distracted ranks of their own representatives, began to recognize in Mr. Redmond the only leader of a Parliamentary party in the House who, upon the great issue of the hour, represented their views and was not afraid of giving them free, full and bold expression in debate. Hence, while nominally only the leader of the Irish National Party, Mr. Redmond was really, at that time, the only leader of the opposition to the Government in the country. It was a great position for so young a man."

"Mr. John Redmond is the first Irish leader who has given the world any token of the possession of the qualities which made Mr. Parnell so famous. It is true that his position is largely due to Mr. Dillon. But he is fortunate in having in Mr. Dillon a colleague who was, in other days, sufficiently self-sacrificing to allow no personal feelings to stand in the way of attaining the great object which he had set before him."

"When 'Tiger Tim' was read out of the party with bell, book and candle, the Irish Parliamentarians became once more a fighting unit. Mr. Redmond, then called to supreme command, displayed qualities with which he had hitherto not been credited. His readiness in debate, his self-control, his keen appreciation of the vital points in Parliamentary strategy speedily made him a power in the House of Commons."

THE ABLEST PARLIAMENTARIAN IN THE PRESENT HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"One of the greatest of our imperial statesmen, who watched the proceedings in the Parliamentary arena from the distant post in which he was serving the empire, declared four years ago, that, in his opinion, Mr. Redmond was the ablest Parliamentarian in the present House of Commons."

"Mr. Redmond is a politician first, a politician second and a politician third. As an individual entity he is almost unknown to any except his intimates. But he has brought keen intelligence to the study of the science of politics. He has given his mind to it, and spent days and nights in acquiring knowledge of all the niceties and rules of Parliamentary procedure."

AN EFFECTIVE, FLUENT AND ELOQUENT SPEAKER.

"He is embarrassed by no fear of mutinies in his rear, and he is conscious of being armed with the mandate of the Irish race. As a speaker he is effective, fluent and eloquent."

"Incongruous though it may appear to some unreflexive persons, it is clear enough that the only possible imperialism which can keep the empire together is imperialism of the Home Rule stripe. Imperialism of the John Bull jingo strain would speedily wreck the empire. The homage paid by the colonial premiers in coronation year to the Irish Nationalist leaders was significant."

Mr. Stead then quotes from a description of Mr. Redmond in 1901 by Mr. W. M. Crook, former editor of the Echo, in the course of which Mr. Crook said: "Fifty years hence it will not seem, as it does to-day, the language of friendly exaggeration to write: 'Politically, John Redmond is the lineal descendant of his great countryman, Edmund Burke.' The passion for freedom and passion for justice are the guiding stars of both."

Mr. Stead proceeds to say: "Let no one imagine from this tribute of Mr. Crook's that John Redmond is other than a grim, irreconcilable Irish fighter, as staunch as in the days of yore, when he fought for the lost cause of Mr. Parnell against over-

whelming odds. It would be difficult to phrase more ruthlessly the Irish intransigents' point of view than did Mr. Redmond when, addressing a mass meeting at Maryborough, Queen's County, Oct. 20, 1901, he made the following significant declaration:

HAS NO FAITH IN ANY ENGLISH PARTY OR IN ENGLAND.

"His guiding principle in life was perfectly simple. He had no faith in any English political party or in English benevolence toward Ireland or in the possibility of any class of the population getting justice in the smallest particular from mere reason, or argument, or persuasion. His policy was to make English Government in Ireland difficult and dangerous. If the people wanted any instalment of justice, they must make themselves a trouble and a danger to the Government."

After giving a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Redmond, Mr. Stead concludes: "He is a brother of Willie Redmond, and he has travelled far and wide among the Irish beyond the sea. He knows personally most of the leading men in the Anglo-Irish-American world, and has a great opinion of President Roosevelt. He says: 'I look forward with hope to the future for President Roosevelt. He is a strong man, thoroughly American, with no absurd Anglomaniac about him. He is a true friend of Irish freedom and proud of the Irish blood that flows in his veins.'"

"Finally," Mr. Redmond says, "I am a member of the Gaelic League. My children are learning Irish. I am with the movement heart and soul." Few higher tributes than this have ever been paid by a man who perhaps beyond any other writer of his time in England has the faculty of dissecting character and presenting the strong and weak points of public men in cameo-like sentences.—John O'Callaghan, in N.Y. Freeman's Journal.

Gifts to Catholic University.

J. Pierpont Morgan Contributes \$10,000 to the Cardinal Gibbons Fund, which is Aided by Several Senators

An interesting portion of the sixteenth annual report of Mgr. D. J. O'Connell, rector of the Catholic University, is the list of names which makes up the Cardinal Gibbons fund, which includes J. Pierpont Morgan, who gave \$10,000; Senator Aldrich, who gave \$2500, and Senators Geo. P. Wetmore, of Rhode Island; Winthrop M. Crane, of Massachusetts; John F. Dryden, of New Jersey; Thomas Kearns, of Utah; Vice-President Fairbanks and Cornelius N. Bliss, each of whom gave \$1000. The fund has reached \$82,943, and is led by Cardinal Gibbons, who contributed \$11,000.

Mgr. O'Connell records that a fund of \$150,000 and two annuities, amounting to \$5582, stand against the assets, which he gives as \$1,225,304. The rector explains that the figures do not include the claims of the university property formerly owned by Thomas E. Waggaman, the former treasurer, who went into bankruptcy, or the values of securities given it by him. From Mr. Waggaman, however, items aggregating \$54,475 are recorded among the assets. They include interest on various notes and money from sale of property.

Catholic Truth Society of Ireland The Catholic Truth Society of Ireland has, as its President, His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, pointed out at the annual meeting, a splendid record, and has done inculcable good in that country. His Grace of Tuam urges that the boxes in the churches should be kept constantly well filled. Incidentally he made a very interesting announcement to the meeting that the pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick, of which he has written so fascinating an account, will be repeated this summer, and that this year Mass will be celebrated in a small chapel erected at the extreme peak of the mountain, surely the most lofty ecclesiastical edifice in Ireland.

THE REPUBLIC'S DANGER

Divorce the Greatest Evil of the Times.

New York Herald—"The fact that there were 60,000 divorces in this country last year is appalling to every good churchman and citizen," said Archbishop Farley. "This record may be looked upon as a national calamity, and I cannot speak in terms too strong on the subject. Divorce is without question one of the greatest evils of the day. Any measures that can be taken to minimize this evil I would gladly sanction and welcome."

The head of the Catholic Church in New York is a man of most pleasing personality. While he is extremely short in stature, and inclined to stoutness, he is still invariably dignified in manner and, what would seem impossible with his height, impressive in mien. Few men have ever been blessed with such a musical voice as the Archbishop possesses. His almost whispered words were quite as distinct as the full-voiced speech of many a larger man. As he talked he tapped his gold-rimmed spectacles against the fingers of the hand on which gleamed the Bishop's ring. A fringe of white hair showed under his purple skull cap, and threw into strong contrast the healthy glow of his face. Around his neck hung the heavy gold chain of his office, with the massive crucifix attached. His eyes are brown and clear and steadfast and look directly and searchingly at the person to whom he is talking.

"Do you fear that the divorce evil is likely to increase?"

"There is no doubt that it is increasing, and increasing at an enormous rate. I fear almost untold evils may result from it. So serious is the situation that it threatens the foundation of our society. If this terrible thing keeps on there is no telling what the result will be. Our national life is already honeycombed by this insidious evil. In fact, the walls of society have already begun to totter, if they are not actually falling under its attacks."

"What, in your opinion, is the reason for this alarming increase of divorces—there are too many hasty marriages?"

"Yes, I think it is unquestionably the reason. People are prone to rush into the marriage state without giving it due thought or consideration. They do not appear to realize that it is a holy and sacred contract, and that those who enter upon it are called upon to make and keep it sacred. People do not think enough nowadays. They do not take life seriously enough. There is an unfortunate general tendency to do things in a hurry and without any thought of the consequences. This tendency is noticeable in many other things than in the marriage contract, but in the marriage contract it is more conspicuously harmful than anywhere else."

"Do you think that early marriages have a tendency to result in divorce suits?"

EARLY MARRIAGES ENCOURAGED. "No, I could not say that and I do not think that. The Catholic Church encourages early marriages for the best reasons. I doubt very much if the simple fact that the parties are married when young in years has any effect whatever on the unhappiness which results in divorce. It is to be blamed entirely to hasty marriages and to a slighting regard for the marriage contract."

"Have you any plan in mind which would tend to lessen the evil?"

"Yes, there is a proposition put forth by an association of Catholic ladies that I heartily approve, and which, I think, if it can be carried out, will result in much good. This plan is a united agreement to ostracize all divorcees. The divorced woman is very apt to be a woman whose main interests in life are wrapped up in society. Now, if society will only ostracize her, as it would any disreputable woman, I am firmly of the opinion that fewer married women would be willing to lay themselves open to this condition."

"Do you think that marriage be-

tween Protestants and Catholics are apt to result in divorces?"

MIXED MARRIAGES NOT ENCOURAGED.

"It is certainly a temptation toward divorce. It is a form of marriage that the Church does not approve or sanction, but occasionally it cannot be helped. I have celebrated marriages of this kind myself many times, but I have always done it unwillingly. I have now decided not to do it any more, although I do allow the priests to do it. While the Church does not approve of these marriages, at the same time the Church is reasonable and fully realizes that there are occasions when it would be unwise to forbid the marriage of a Catholic and a non-Catholic."

"Would not a uniform divorce law in the various States of the Union put a check upon divorce?"

"Undoubtedly it would. The present code of divorce laws, where in some States one can obtain a divorce for almost any reason or without any reason at all, is no more or less than a sweeping invitation for divorce."

"Would you then advocate some form of a general divorce law for all the States?"

"I could not advocate a divorce law of any kind. The Church does not believe in divorce, and consequently it does not sanction any divorce law. But as a priest I would gladly welcome any change that would minimize the evil."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REASONABLE ON ALL QUESTIONS.

"Certainly not. The Church sanctions separations. It believes in a divorce from bed and board when it is shown that the persons are morally and mentally unfitted to each other. The Church is reasonable. It does not insist that a bear and a hyena should be caged together. That would be an uncalled for and unnecessary cruelty."

"What the Church does not sanction or believe in is the divorce as it is known in this country, which is that after the contracting parties have been given their freedom by the courts they are at liberty to marry again. It is not the separating of married people that does such harm. It is the fact that they only separate to marry others and throw off the sacred bond of matrimony as thoughtlessly as they would an old garment. When two persons are married they are married until death. Nothing else can divorce them."

"I would like to correct a slight error that has appeared in the public prints to the effect that I said in the course of my address to the graduating class of the College of St. Francis Xavier that the United States Cabinet had taken up the question of divorce and purposed to deal with it. Of course, I did not say any such thing, as it is quite obvious that I have no means of knowing the secrets of the Cabinet. It is quite out of my province to be posted on what they propose to do. What I did say was that Secretary Taft, who is a member of the Cabinet, is strongly opposed to divorce. That in itself is a very good sign."

"It is a very cheering thing to know that President Roosevelt has taken such a firm stand on this matter. What he has said on the subject has been forcible and clear. His address a short time ago to the Mothers' Association left no room for doubt as to his exact feelings. Coming as it did from a layman it is all the more to be commended."

"Are you in sympathy with what the President said concerning race suicide?"

"Most assuredly. No President since Washington's time has had a more beneficial effect on the conditions of society and the family than President Roosevelt, has had by means of his outspoken and frank utterances on the subject. He not

only preaches the doctrine he believes but he exemplifies it in his own life, and his own family stands as a striking illustration of what he has said concerning race standards.

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION BEFORE THE COUNTRY.

"We should give heartfelt thanks to the President for his manly denunciation of race suicide. Since he came out with it the eyes of the nation have been opened to the evil. It is a great question, the most important before the country. It is a question of morals and religion. Our faith holds that a large family is a blessing, and as a rule Catholics have large families because they are taught that marriage is a holy state and they must bring up their children in the fear of God."

"Any violation of that end is criminal, mortally criminal. No Catholic can be a practical Catholic who does not take this view of the obligations contracted in the sacrament of matrimony."

"As far as the question of economics goes the theory opposed to large families is founded on falsehood, for even the poor find their greatest happiness in their numerous progeny. I have spent many years among the poor and those who work and in my experience it has been the rarest thing to see a dark look greeting a new birth. The man of faith feels that another soul has been born to inherit heaven, and he would feel himself guilty of a heinous crime for it to be otherwise."

"Look at France. Its population has fallen below what it was ten years ago, and that condition is traced by its own rulers to this very cause—a violation of the laws of marriage. This condition exists entirely in the infidel portions of France. The widespread evil is the result of Voltaire's teachings. It is that country's curse and the people's shame."

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE.

"This race suicide question is not a new one. It is as old as religion. The Church has always taught the sacredness of marriage and there can be no other answer to the problem than a faithful observance of God's commands."

"Co-existence with the divorce evil are all the other evils of immorality and impurity of life. As one increases and thrives so do the others. The mere fact that there were 60,000 divorces in this country last year is not the sum total of the evil that that implies. It means a proportionate increase in immorality of all kinds."

"How about the present condition of American literature? Do you think that it has a tendency to lower the standards from what it should be?"

OUR DAILY NEWSPAPERS FILLED WITH STORIES OF CRIME. "The main danger in that direction that threatens the public at present is through the columns of newspapers that do not hesitate to print articles of a demoralizing nature. The newspapers of this great metropolis reflect the daily lessons of life for the people, and many of them do not discriminate between lessons that are on the side of morality and those that flaunt immorality. The home and the family should be protected against these newspapers. It is greatly to be deplored that in the struggle to print all the news a great deal of matter is printed which should never be made public. Crime and debauchery are almost daily put before the eyes of every one who can read, be he young or old."

"Are you of the opinion that the agitation among Protestant churches against divorce will result in lessening it any?"

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It is the little pleasures which make life sweet, as the little displeasures may do more than afflictions can to make it bitter.

A philosophic truth does not become popular until some eloquent soul has humanized it or some gifted personality has translated and embodied it. Pure truth cannot be assimilated by the crowd; it must be communicated by contagion.—Amiel's Journal.