

ON THE BATTLE LINE

Overshadowing everything else in the war is the great Naval Battle of the North Sea. Germans claim great victory.

THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY
SIX BRITISH CRUISERS LOST

The test of the Admiralty announcement issued Friday afternoon follows:

"On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 31st of May, a naval engagement took place off the coast of Jutland. The British ships on which the brunt of the fighting fell were the battle cruiser fleet and some cruisers and light cruisers, supported by four fast battleships. Among the losses were heavy. The German battle fleet, aided by low visibility, avoided a prolonged action with our main forces. As soon as these appeared on the scene the enemy returned to port though not before receiving severe damage from our battleships.

"The battle cruisers Queen Mary, Indefatigable and Invincible, and the cruisers Defence and Black Prince were sunk. The Warrior was disabled, and after being towed for some time had to be abandoned by her crew. It is also known that the destroyers Tipperary, Turbulent, Fortune, Sparrow Hawk and Ardent were lost, and six others are not yet accounted for. No British battleships or light cruisers were sunk.

ENEMY LOSSES ARE SERIOUS

"The enemy's losses were serious. At least one battle cruiser was destroyed, and one was severely damaged. One battleship is reported to have been sunk by our destroyers. During the night attack two light cruisers were disabled and probably sunk. The exact number of enemy destroyers disposed of during the action cannot be ascertained with any certainty, but must have been large."

BY GERMAN ADMIRALTY
A "NORTHWARD ENTERPRISE"

Berlin, June 2.—The text of the German Admiralty report, which is dated June 1, says:

"During an enterprise directed to the northward our high sea fleet on May 31 encountered the main part of the British fighting fleet, which was considerably superior to our forces. "During the afternoon, between Skagerrack and Horn Riff, a heavy engagement developed which was successful for us, and which continued during the whole night.

In this engagement, so far as known up to the present, there were destroyed by us the large battleship Warspite, the battle cruisers, Queen Mary and Indefatigable, two armored cruisers, apparently of the Achilles type, one small cruiser, the new flagship of the destroyer squadrons, the Turbulent, Nestor and Alcester, a large number of torpedo-boat destroyers and one submarine.

The mauling received by a British fleet at the hands of the German high sea fleet in the Skagerrack on Wednesday night was serious, but not of such a nature as to endanger British naval supremacy. The reader would do well to keep a firm grip of the fact that it was "a" British fleet, not "the" British fleet which was so roughly handled by what Berlin admits was the entire German High Sea fleet. When the main British fleet, hurriedly steaming to the scene of action, appeared the Germans left off pounding the overmatched ships that had engaged and scuttled back to port. That was good tactics, and nothing of which to be ashamed.

The British battle cruiser fleet as it went into action consisted probably of eight Dreadnought cruisers. Four battleships—also, no doubt, of the Dreadnought type—were the other capital ships engaged. Of these Dreadnoughts, the Queen Mary, Invincible and Indefatigable, were sunk. The Invincible and the Indefatigable were fine, fast ships, armed with eight 12-inch guns, and with what was regarded as adequate armor when they were built in 1907-08. The Queen Mary was almost the last word in naval design. She was completed only three years ago, and had a recorded speed of 31 knots. Her big guns numbered eight, and were of 13½ inch calibre. Her principal armor belt was over two inches thicker than that of the other battle cruisers sunk. The Black Prince, Defence and Warrior, the lost armored cruisers, were all good ships, but Britain is still very strong in this class of vessel, and the Queen Mary in a naval Armageddon ought to have been worth a dozen of such vessels. The eight destroyers sunk can be made good speedily. The output is continuous.

How serious the loss of life has been is not known. If the battle cruisers sunk suddenly in action their crews went down with them, and we have already learned that German warships do not draw out of the battle-line to aid drowning foes. The loss of life may total over six thousand of Britain's finest fighting men, trained in the use of the latest naval mechanism of war. That is the most serious feature of the battle of Skagerrack. The German loss of trained men, if the ships sunk number only three—a battleship and two light cruisers—would not exceed 1,500 men. A number of German destroyers were also lost, and it would not be unreasonable to add 500 men as a fair total for their crews. The British death roll of 6,000 or more will, if no other losses are reported, bear about the propor-

tion to Britain's naval enrollment as the German loss of 2,000 bears to the total of her trained seamen and engine-room crews.—Globe, June 8.

While the French hold the Germans at Verdun, the Turks have checked the Russian advance in Asia.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S
LETTERSETTLEMENT OF IRISH
QUESTION CERTAIN

SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION AND
COMROMISE PERVADES ALL
PARTIES

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD
(Copyright 1916, Central News)

London June 3.—Seated in his room in the Hotel Metropole, which he annexed some time ago for the Central Munitions office, David Lloyd George has spent hours daily hearing all sections of Irish opinion. He invited the attendance of all the Irish leaders without distinction, listened to all, kept his temper with angelic patience, smiled off difficulty and turned angry remonstrances with a soft word. In short he never displayed with greater effect his immense rights as a negotiator. He also steadily maintained the position of supreme negotiator, acting as go-between and seeing the different parties separately, not together. This method avoided all friction, personal and political, has kept all parties comparatively free and has avoided exasperating haggling.

Mr. Lloyd George has been helped also by the excellent spirit in which nearly all the different groups met him. The determination to reach a settlement is equally keen in nearly all sections. This was shown by the willingness of all sides to make concessions. Ulster to the South's National demand, and Southern Ireland to Ulster's present objections to enter a Home Rule Parliament.

The final basis of an agreement is not yet reached, and especially as it is in the hands, not of the Irish leaders but of Mr. Lloyd George, who will make proposals on behalf and responsibility of the Government. Apart from the fact that Mr. Lloyd George has not yet completed his proposals, the Cabinet cannot discuss or accept them till next week. A further cause of the delay will be the necessity that the Irish leaders consult their followers before accepting Mr. Lloyd George's proposals, and these consultations may not begin till the Whitsuntide holidays, but settlement is certain.

It would be just like the tragic irony of Irish history if the last insane and ghastly attempt to defeat Home Rule was to result in the advent of Home Rule. Undoubtedly the present feeling in England, except among the incurable irrecconcilables, is to approach the Irish question in a new spirit and to push forward the settlement of Ireland on lines which will be acceptable to the Nationalists and Unionists. It is hard to say exactly how this spirit arose, but the spirit exists. It was partly due, of course, to the fact that the supporters of Sir Edward Carson, both in military and civil life, were brought up with a shock to the results of their policy of gun-running and organized rebellion in Ireland. It is partly due to the reaction from the severity with which the rebellion on Ireland was put down.

Our papers have contained serious and disturbing cablegrams from America indicating the strong feeling of condemnation which these executions have caused among general American opinion. I may say that this feeling is not confined to America nor to Ireland. The first people to protest against the continuance of these executions were the English Liberal press, the Daily News, Daily Chronicle, and more than all the Manchester Guardian. I understand that some of the Unionist organs, though they spoke with more caution, had their misgivings. The curious transformation of Irish opinion, was that when first these lunatics seemed not only to imperil but to destroy all chance of Ireland getting Home Rule, there was a feeling of such fierce revolt against them that no punishment was too severe for them. In a few days' time all this was changed; while during the insurrections period nine-tenths of Ireland were fierce anti-Sinn Feiners. It looked as if nine-tenths of them would be in sympathy at least with the Sinn Fein element. This feeling runs very strong at the present moment, and undoubtedly it is a serious obstacle to a calm consideration of the manner in which the Irish cause is to be rescued from the ashes to which these misled men organized by subsidized German agents had reduced the cause.

In London the feeling of course is a great deal less swayed by these natural and tempestuous emotions, and from almost the first moment after the suppression of the rebellion the feeling seemed to rise spontaneously and almost universally among men of serious thought and purpose, that this was the golden moment for putting an end to the disastrous state of things in Ireland.

Mr. Asquith's visit to Dublin came as a surprise to nearly every member of the House of Commons, though hints had been given the day before to some of the Irish leaders. The question at once arose whether Mr. Asquith had gone to Ireland simply for the purpose of making inquiries, and whether with that extraordinary power of getting to the kernel of a

subject which he so often displays, he will be able to come back with an entirely new view of Dublin Castle machinery and a new policy of Irish reconstruction. It was confidently hoped that he would not have a word to say for Dublin Castle; indeed one result of the Sinn Fein movement and of the practical impotence of the British Government to deal with it was the final extinction of all faith, practically in almost all quarters, in Dublin Castle. It was thought, however, that by those who knew Mr. Asquith best that his visit to Dublin had a much more serious purpose and that it was regarded as the first move in a great and vast political game. The moment this hint was given the movement for an arrangement spread like wildfire. I took the trouble one evening of going to a big public dinner and afterward to a big reception at the Russian Embassy for the members of the Imperial Duma, for the purpose of sounding opinion. I spoke to all sorts and conditions of politicians, Tories as well as Liberals, and I found that the opinion in favor of a deal was universal. The curious thing was that man after man repeated the same words. This is the golden moment.

How far will these efforts succeed? It is certain that the Irish position has undergone an entire transformation since the war and a second transformation since the Sinn Fein rebellion. The splendid response which Ireland made on the whole to the recruiting campaign, the consistent and courageous stand which Mr. Redmond has made for the cause of the Allies, above all the incomparable bravery of the Irish soldiers in the various battlefields, almost obliterated that old feeling of suspicion against Ireland which has been the chief weapon of the enemies of Home Rule. Though the Orange newspapers in Ulster still maintain their old rancorous attitude, though some of their leaders in parliament remained and still remain incorrigible, this phenomena had produced a profound impression on the sane and moderate section of even the Tory party.

The very day that Mr. Redmond made his great speech in favor of the Allies, Tory after Tory came up to me to say that he could never again feel about the question of Home Rule as he had before the war. Then came the Sinn Fein movement and once more the fact that nine-tenths of the people of Ireland remained outside the movement and hostile to it added conviction to the idea that the old suspicion of an irreconcilable hostility must disappear. The Sinn Fein insurrection indeed might be described as important, not because it revealed the hostility, but because it revealed the friendship of the Irish people to the cause of the Allies. It was in fact a revelation of that new liberated and prosperous Ireland which the movement of Butt and Parnell has created, and which of course in its very essence is anti-revolutionary.

The attitude, on the other hand, of the Nationalist toward the Orangeism has also undergone some modification. It became clear at the very opening of the war that any attempt to settle the question of Ireland either in Ulster or the South by means of arms had become an impossibility. Mr. Asquith in his speech at the Mansion House in the very early days of the war, laid down the doctrine that force could not be used against either the one or the other. That declaration stands, and it has been confirmed by events. The result of it is that the same Nationalists now approach the question of Ulster much more tolerantly. They were willing when the Home Rule bill was under discussion to let four counties of Ulster stand out. The historic conference at Buckingham Palace broke down on the question whether to these four counties should be added Fermanagh and Tyrone.

These two counties were in some respects the crux of the whole difficulty, largely because the forces of Orangeism and Nationalism were so near in political strength, and because, as a natural consequence, feeling ran more high there than elsewhere. The Orangemen were fanatical; the Nationalists were fanatical. The difficulty of Edward Carson was to give up these fanatical supporters; the difficulty of Mr. Redmond was to accept the principle that a Nationalist majority in these two counties should not be allowed the same quality of right as in the Orange counties to decide their future fate. Various conferences were proposed by the members at the conference and on the whole there was a disposition to make a distinction between these two counties and the other four counties of Ulster and to give them special treatment in the form of an interregnum or something of that kind.

This close approach to a compromise recurs to many minds at a time when the vastly larger issues of the war place such a difference of opinion in a different perspective, and when the fate of civilization and liberty is at stake such differences appear much less important. I cannot yet say how all these things will end, but I retain the confident belief that we are nearing the end of the Irish trouble.

Nothing can excuse the neglect of the duties of the position in life which God has conferred upon us. All is delusive where these are not attended to, and made much of. They are, as it were, private sacraments to each one of us. They are our chief, often our sole way of becoming saints.

IRISH MANIFESTO

CALL TO PEOPLE TO SUPPORT
CONSTITUTIONAL MOVEMENT

London, (Eng.) Daily Chronicle.

A stirring manifesto has been issued by the Irish party calling upon the people of Ireland to stand by the constitutional movement.

The manifesto reads:

Another tragedy has been added to the long tale of tragedies in Irish history. The capital of Ireland has been the scene of a mad and unsuccessful attempt at revolution. Blood has been shed freely. It is true that Ireland had been bitterly provoked by the growth of a similar revolutionary and illegal movement in another portion of Ireland, backed by an army in revolt. It is true that a grave responsibility for these events in Dublin rests on the leaders of that movement. These things will have to be discussed at the proper time.

It is true that Ireland has been shocked and horrified by the series of military executions by military tribunals in Dublin. These things have been done in the face of the incessant and vehement protests of the Irish leaders, and these protests will be pressed continually and strongly until the unchecked control of the Military Authorities in Ireland is abolished. But it is also true that, in spite of these bitter provocations, the people of Ireland have had no hesitation in condemning the rising in Dublin, as a dangerous blow at the heart and the hopes of Ireland.

THE ALTERNATIVES

On the morrow of this tragedy we feel called upon to make a solemn appeal to the people of Ireland to draw the conclusions which these events force upon them. We must leave no misunderstanding in their minds as to our convictions and our resolves. Either Ireland is to be given over to unsuccessful revolution and anarchy, or the constitutional movement is to have the full support of the Irish people and go on till it has completed its work.

We lay before the people of Ireland these alternatives, not for the first time. Indeed, except in certain small sections of the people, that alternative of a constitutional movement was chosen and adhered to for nearly half a century.

After the revolutionary movement of the sixties Isaac Butt proclaimed to the Irish people that a constitutional movement was the only sure and certain method of obtaining their rights. Parnell renewed that policy and that hope. The people of Ireland accepted that policy, and that policy has never been seriously questioned by the Irish people.

BLEEDING FROM EVERY PORE

What was the condition of Ireland when she was asked by Butt and Parnell to choose a constitutional movement? The Land System remained in practically the same position of entrenched omnipotence as at any period of Irish history. The tenants were the victims of extortionate rack rents. When the rack rents became impossible of payment—often even when they were paid—the country was bleeding from every pore with the emigration of her youngest and best children.

Rural Ireland presented to the world a tragic and almost universal spectacle of a nation in ruins; wretched cabins, insufficient food, rags instead of decent clothing, and the terror and abjectness of the slavery to the landlord. The labourers touched an even lower depth of despair: in houses unfit for animals, with poor wages, without land, they were hopeless in the present and the future. Beyond all this, the vision which has haunted the Irish nation throughout all its existence, of the recognition of its nationality by an Irish Parliament seemed to be as remote as at almost any time in her history.

Butt, Parnell, and the organizations they created, held out the promise to Ireland that in a constitutional movement there could be found a weapon sufficiently powerful to remove all these grievances. These grievances and the reforms they demanded were set forth briefly in the programmes of these different organizations founded by Butt and Parnell years before any of the grievances had even been touched.

NATIONAL LEAGUE PROGRAMME

On the suppression of the Land League the National League was founded to succeed it, and the programme of the National League, as adopted by the National Conference held in Dublin on October 17, 1882, was as follows:

1. National self-government.
2. Land law reform.
3. Local self-government.
4. Extension of the Parliamentary and municipal franchises.
5. The development and encouragement of the labour and industrial interests of Ireland.

The question we ask every Irishman to put to his mind and conscience at this solemn hour is whether, in the history of his country, the promises made by Butt and Parnell—renewed by their successors—and the objects of the national organizations have been realized or falsified. What answer can any sane or truthful Irishman give to such a question but this: that the constitutional movement has not

only won everything the programme of Butt, Parnell, and the Irish organizations demanded, but a great deal more.

For what is the record of the years which have passed since Butt founded the Home Rule and constitutional movement?

Rack rents, evictions, the rent office, the rent warner, the bailiff, to a large extent the landlord, have disappeared from the life of Ireland. Two-thirds of the entire land of the country has passed into the hands of the people. The remaining third is in process of gradual transfer, and the soil of Ireland is now more securely vested in the people of Ireland than at any period in our country's history.

Tens of thousands of cottages have been built all over Ireland, in which, at a moderate rent and with a portion of land, the Irish labourers have been transformed from the worst-housed, worst-clothed, and worst-fed class in Europe into the best housed, the most comfortable, and the most independent body of labourers in the world.

In the congested districts grass ranches have been acquired and divided up into economic holdings for the people. Slated, roomy and healthy houses have taken the place of the miserable cabins, and there has grown up in some of the most poverty-stricken districts in the North-West, West, and South of Ireland a new Ireland of happy and prosperous homes.

The evicted tenants, who formerly were without redress and had no alternative but the workhouse or emigration, have been practically all restored to their original holdings or to other holdings as good or better.

In so far as the local government of Ireland is concerned, it has been wrenched from the landlords and is now in entire possession of the people, with chairmen and members freely chosen by the people themselves.

The Parliamentary and municipal franchises, which, in the days before Butt and Parnell, were successfully used to misrepresent the convictions and interests of the people, have been so reformed that the representation of three-fourths of Ireland is in accord with the national aspirations of the people.

BENEFITS CONFERRED

In every effort to put down sweating, the abuse of the truck system, the efficient administration of the Factory Acts, the safeguarding of the right of combination, and the protection of the interests of trade unions, the Irish National party have been able to extend to Ireland every benefit that the popular representatives of Great Britain have been able to obtain for their constituents.

In the region of higher education the Irish party have been enabled to bestow upon Ireland a National University, through which the sons of Catholics can find access to the highest conquests of learning for the first time in their history.

Primary and secondary education, the teachers and the schools, have all received an enormous improvement in revenue and position.

The tenants in the towns have achieved a charter far in excess of anything ever extended to any city or town in England.

With England, Ireland has been enabled to share to the full in all the programme of social reform. Old age pensions have brought comfort and hope to tens of thousands of old men and women who otherwise would have had an old age of poverty and despair. The National Insurance Act has given to the workers of Ireland the same guarantees as to those of England against illness, unemployment, sickness and disease.

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Finally, the Irish party has achieved the last and the greatest of the objects of every Irish movement since the Union, by placing on the Statute Book the greatest and largest measure of Irish self-government ever proposed and ever achieved.

If then, the constitutional movement has triumphantly vindicated itself; if, on the other hand, a revolutionary movement has shown itself to be at once futile and disastrous, have we not a right to ask the people of Ireland to stand by the constitutional movement and to uphold it till its entire mission is accomplished? Have we not a right to call upon men in all stations of life in Ireland who have the duty and the power to guide the decisions of the people, to make a strong and united appeal to the people to choose the wise and to oppose the insane course of Irish policy?

During all these years which have marked this splendid march of our Irish people to the removal of their grievances and the realization of their hopes, their representatives, who were the faithful instruments in carrying out this policy, and especially during the last ten or fifteen years, have been subjected to the fiercest and the most unjust attacks. Their work, instead of being recognised, has been belittled and derided.

Every weapon of faction, of personal hate, of journalistic insinuation, has been employed against them; and often they have not had the vigorous support which they were well entitled to demand from the people when, as was certain, the people was in favour of their policy with practical unanimity.

TIME FOR HESITATION PAST

The time for such hesitation is now past. We repeat that the country

stands face to face with the alternative of futile revolution and anarchy or of the maintenance of the constitutional movement by the full and vigorous support of the Irish people.

Each Irish Nationalist has to put before himself these alternatives. We have no doubt what the choice of the Irish people will be. But it is on that answer that the constitutional movement and our future conduct must depend. If the people do not want the constitutional movement, they do not want us. Without their active support, we should be engaged in an impossible task.

With their support we can complete the fabric of Irish reform and Irish liberty which we have been building up for the last half-century. We shall realise all the reforms and all the hopes we and our predecessors in the constitutional movement have held out to them. We shall lead the Irish people into the Parliament House for which they have been praying and working for more than a century.

"I SHALL NOT CRY RETURN"

I shall not cry Return! Return!
Nor weep my years away;
But just as long as sunsets burn,
And dawns make no delay,
I shall be lonesome—I shall miss
Your hand, your voice, your smile,
Your kiss.

Not often shall I speak your name,
For what would strangers care,
That once a sudden tempest came
And swept my gardens bare,
And then you passed, and in your
place
Stood Silence with her lifted face.

Not always shall this parting be,
For though I travel slow,
I, too, may claim eternity
And find the way you go;
And so I do my task and wait
The opening of the outer gate.

—ELLEN M. H. GATES

WHAT CONVERTED NEWMAN

"This is the great, manifest, historical phenomenon which converted me—to which all particular enquiries converged," if we are to believe what Cardinal Newman tells us:

Christianity is not a matter of opinion, but an external fact, entering into, carried out in, indivisible from, the history of the world. It has a bodily occupation of the world; it is one continuous fact or thing, the same from first to last, distinct from everything else; to be a Christian is to partake of, to submit to this thing; and the simple question was, Where, what is this thing in this age, which in the first age was the Catholic Church? The answer was undeniable; the Church called Catholic now, is the very same thing in hereditary descent, in organization, in principles, in position, in

THOMAS SIMPSON,
applying to the British
Parliament in 1760 for a
charter for the Equitable
Society, based his petition
on the following grounds:

"The great numbers of
His Majesty's subjects
whose subsistence principally depends on the
salaries, stipends and
other incomes payable
to them during their
natural lives or on the
profits arising from
their several trades,
occupations, labor and
industry, are very desirous
of entering into a
society for assuring the
lives of each other in
order to extend, after
their decease, the benefit
of their present incomes
to their families
and relations, who may
otherwise be reduced to
extreme poverty and
distress by the premature
death of their several
husbands, fathers
and friends."

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external relations, which was called the Catholic Church then; name and thing have ever gone together, by an uninterrupted connection and succession from then till now.—The Missionary.

To wear a cheerful face when the heart is aching is not deceit. When a good housekeeper cleans the front steps and porch before she sets the house to rights, she does not mean to deceive passers-by; she merely shows some pride in her house and some consideration for her neighbors. We conquer our heartaches more quickly when we begin by considering the friends who are near us.

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE
MISSION

Taichowfu, China, Dec. 11, 1915.

Dear Readers of CATHOLIC RECORD:

It may be a little surprise to you to learn that it takes \$100 a week to keep my mission going. I am glad when I see that amount contributed in the RECORD, but when it is less I am sad to see my little reserve sum diminished and the catastrophe arriving when I must close my chapels, discharge my catechists and reduce my expenses to the few dollars coming in weekly. I beseech you to make one more supreme effort during 1916 to keep this mission on its feet. You will be surprised to learn what a great deal I am doing with \$100 a week—keeping myself and curate, 30 catechists, 7 chapels, and free schools, 3 churches in different cities with caretakers, supporting two big catechumens of men, women and children during their preparation for baptism and building a church every year.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary,
J. M. FRASER.

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