

RECONSTRUCTION

That there will be a reconstruction after the War is inevitable; that this reconstruction will be Christian is by no means certain.

The most important post-war measure framed thus far by the French Republic has been the War Measures Act, and this is frankly Jacobin, for it takes away from mothers the right to determine the education of their children.

The same can be said of Portugal and Italy. In Great Britain reconstruction is both confidently hoped for and anxiously dreaded.

In Ireland the pusillanimous attempt of British politicians to stave off reconstruction, and the selfish efforts of Orange politicians to delay it, are only serving to make the problem many times more difficult.

Meanwhile though there has been very little reconstruction as yet, Europe is almost in a state of flux. The greatest European Empire has crumbled into bits; new states are coming into existence.

I should like to see the two books as text books in Religious Study Clubs in every Knights of Columbus Council in Canada.

The unchanging and unchanging institution in Europe is the Catholic Church. Its divine constitution enables it to shape itself for all emergencies without adopting fundamental changes.

What will happen in Canada? What we saw we shall reap. A hundred thousand doctors and theorists will offer their prescriptions.

Neither synicism nor inertia will prevent change. There is a great vague feeling of unrest amongst the soldiers. They realize vividly that something is very wrong and they will be ready to do something about it.

The motto of Christian reconstruction is: "Repeat and believe in the Gospel." These were Christ's first words, when He began the work of purifying society, and they form the only sound basis for any such work.

As long as nations ignore the supernatural and violate the Ten Commandments, justice and true progress are impossible.

That society should be reconstructed according to the divine plan from whence it fell, Christ established His Church, and supplied her, both her ministers and her members, with the means necessary to obtain this object.

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obtain the gift of faith, they should be led to imitate and co-operate with the Christian program of the Catholic Church according to the light that is given them.

As a first preparation towards a Christian reconstruction in Canada, I should like to see a more serious and systematic study of the Catholic religion in our schools, high schools, convents and colleges.

A practical first step, for example, is the following: How much do we know of the New Testament and the Roman Catechism or the Catechism of the Council of Trent, as it is frequently styled?

Two ordinary sized books; the one, inspired by God, contains all we know of the life of Christ and all that we possess of the writings of His apostles.

As a second step towards reconstruction I would strongly urge the establishment of a Catholic Canadian Quarterly Review.

To stimulate and direct Catholic thought we need a Canadian Quarterly Review of the type of the Dublin or Studies. This would serve as a Catholic counterpart to the university magazine.

Let it not be thought that I am stressing unduly the position of the laity in the Church and that I am forgetting that the essential factors in Christian reformation and reconstruction are the home, the parish and the school.

With such a review successfully established and with Religious Study Clubs actively at work, but one other thing is required to give us our proper place of leadership in Canadian thought and that is for French Canadians so to realize their essential solidarity with all good and true movements in Canada.

have shown themselves to be true soldiers of Christ at the front. Yet the very fact that the success of our schools has been great, is itself a sufficient reason why we should improve and develop and enrich our schools and establish new ones where necessary.

But no matter how successful we may be among those at school and among those who have just left school and with whom we have, it is to be hoped, remained in touch, there still is need of adult Catholics not merely listening, more or less passively, to sermons, but seriously and systematically studying their religion.

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Catholics stand aloof. United we could be the directing factor in Canadian thought and easily the greatest constructive force in the great reconstruction.

JOHN J. O'GORMAN, C. F. Lent, 1918, London, England.

REDMOND HELD FULL SWAY FOR 20 YEARS

GREAT ORATOR WHO HELD HIS AUDIENCES WITH SWELLING SENTENCES

Maurice Joy in N. Y. Evening Mail, March 6. John E. Redmond, who is dead to-day, held for twenty years a more complete sway over the masses of the Irish people than any previous political leader has ever had.

He was first of all a great orator; secondly a great parliamentarian. He did not seem to have the commanding eye of Parnell nor the honied, humorous personality of O'Connell.

Redmond, unlike most Irish leaders, did not make much use of humor in his oratory. His manner was based on that of the classic orators who loved great periods and swelling sentences that carried an audience along on a wave of emotion.

In the House of Commons he could abandon this great manner when he wished and argue from a wealth of parliamentary knowledge probably unequalled since the death of Sir William Harcourt.

I said that Redmond rarely displayed humor in his public utterances. Yet he could tell a good story as well as most of his party, and that party is famous in the House of Commons both for its wit and humor.

"Late in the evening," he used to say, "there came a cipher telegram from me. It came from Dublin Castle. (Mr. Redmond would chuckle at the unconscious humor of that superscription, considering that he had spent his life fighting Dublin Castle.)"

"A young English gentleman was intrusted with its delivery. At 2.30 in the morning after he had knocked vigorously at the door, my old cook went to open it."

"She is a good old Wexford woman and an old friend of my family. She took in the situation and looking out of the door, saw the policeman and the young man. When she asked what they wanted, the reply was that they came from Dublin Castle. They added that they wanted Mr. Redmond."

"Well she remembered the time when Dublin Castle wanted me in another way when such messages were preliminary to my going to prison. So the good old soul slammed the door in the faces of the emissaries and said: 'There's no John Redmond here.'"

"A friend of mine, appreciating the circumstances, went to the door and learned the true facts. He brought in the policeman and the nice young attorney at 3 o'clock in the morning and I was solemnly presented with a complimentary office in the cabinet."

"You all know the result. I gave my answer then and there in the most unceremonious manner."

Redmond's answer was, of course, a refusal. He had held all his part to the pledge that they had taken under Parnell never to accept office from a British government.

This pledge undoubtedly prevented Redmond from reaching cabinet rank any time since the Liberals were returned to power in 1906. He could have been in the first cabinet formed by Campbell-Bannerman after the Liberals returned from their long stay in the wilderness of opposition.

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DIED. KEENAN.—At St. Basil Ste. Marie, Ont., January 27, 1918, Mr. H. M. Keenan, aged forty-nine years. May his soul rest in peace.

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African Fabula, The; translated by Right Rev. Mr. Joseph O'Connell, D. D. The story of the life of St. Perpetua, who suffered martyrdom together with her slave, Felicitas, at Carthage in the year 203. One of the most moving in the annals of the Church.

Alchemist's Secret, The; by Isabel Cecilia Williams. This collection of short stories is not only the most written simply for amusement; they have their simple, direct teaching, and they lead us to think of and to pity sorrow and trials of others rather than our own.

Atlas Kitty Casey, by Marie Gertrude Williams. Kitty Casey is really Catherine Casey, a girl threatened with starvation, who in an endeavor to escape herself, and at the same time to save the advantages of the country in summer time, accepts a menial position in a hotel, taking the identity of a waitress raised by her maid, Kitty Casey. The story is well written, and a romance clearly told.

Blaken and Flanagan, by Mrs. James Sadler. This book is the masterpiece of the distinguished author whose writings have made her name a household word of the English Southern classics. It is a tale of Borrowed From The Night, by Anna C. Minogue. Miss Minogue has a way of showing her readers the delectable Southern character in its charm and gentility. No one will read "Borrowed From The Night" without being fascinated by the story.

Carlson, by Anna C. Minogue. A Romance of Kentucky. Much has been written of the troublesome times from 1790 to 1860, but seldom has a Catholic author taken this story of himself as material for a story. Miss Minogue is a resident of Kentucky, and in this story she gives a clear picture of the confusion and uncertainty which existed in that state. The story is admirably presented and written with romance and interest.

Chloe, by Mrs. James Sadler. A tale of the times of the French Revolution. A story of a young girl who expresses the feelings and relations between Christians and heathens of that time.

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