

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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The Catholic Record

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOV. 22, 1919

NEW, NEW, NEW!
BY THE OBSERVER

A story is told of a fish vendor in a neighboring British dominion who was heard one day calling: "Fresh fish; fresh fish; fresh; fresh, fresh fish;" and then, in a low voice, as if to square it a little with his conscience: "Fresh out of the barrel."

I don't know whether any of the present-day vendors of "new" religions, and "new" philosophies, and "new" quack remedies for everything that is wrong in the world, and "new" schemes to take the place of all the thought of all the ages; whether any of them ever think it necessary to square themselves privately. But, if they do, they might add: "fresh out of the barrel;" for most of the stuff they offer comes out of the world's scrap barrels where it was thrown long ago by disappointed people who had tried it—on themselves and on others.

Humanity is too precious to be too much experimented with. And human beings, in general, are not without a sense of humor; and these two facts make hard the way of the ignorant innovator. It is a long time since Newman implored the shallow busy bodies of his day to stop bringing him the oldest things in the world, telling him they were the newest. The advice still holds; and there are more people now than ever who need it.

Curiously enough, it is in the field of religion that most of those who think they are innovators, or who would like to be, attempt to show us their pieces. The worldly sciences have, as yet, in part escaped their unintelligent meddling. For instance, it is not yet very common for men, however conceited or however stupid, to rummage in a back yard, find a weed, take it to an hospital, and offer it for use on the sick with the bland assurance that it is medicine. It is well to know that there are some limits to human conceit; and that no one has yet thought of making a tonic for his sick wife or children out of materials found by the roadside.

When we turn to law, we cannot say as much. The question is asked, and somewhat vociferously asked, just now, what have lawyers to do with making laws anyhow? There are now to be found in every community numbers of people whose vanity has persuaded them that no special training goes to the making of a law-maker; and that if lawyers are so prominent and so influential in every parliament and in every legislature in the world, it is because of their impudence, their aggressiveness and their trickery. Not only is it now a popular supposition that anyone can write a law; but it is popularly supposed that anyone can make a constitution for a nation; and that anyone is competent to judge the value, the quality, the meaning and the utility of the public constitutions now existing.

But it is when we come to religion that we see the greatest flood of shallow suggestions. There is a story which was related some time ago in a Catholic paper, told of the Marquis of Talleyrand when he was a political adviser to Napoleon. There was in Paris a man who had the ambition of founding a new religion. Talleyrand met him one day, and asked him how the project was getting on. "Not very well; and I cannot imagine why not; it is obviously superior to all existing religions. Marquis, give me the benefit of your opinion. What can I do? Can you not suggest something?" "Yes," said Talleyrand, "I can." "Ab, good! What is it?" "Well," said Talleyrand, "You had better be crucified, and rise again on the third day."

There are no new errors in religion. Every error now thrust upon the world by way of theorizing in religion, is one into which some portion of mankind has, at some previous time, fallen, in the belief that they had found something to take the place of God's Revelation with its obligations of humility and obedience, which obligations are so unpleasing to human pride.

From the earliest days of human history, man has sought to shake off God's hand, and to make a religion for himself. Many, many centuries before Christ came into the world, men were engaged in that hopeless attempt. He put all their efforts in their true proportion and place when He proved Himself to be God by raising Himself from the dead.

Talleyrand's irreverent words express a great truth; the greatest truth with which men have to do; the truth which is the foundation of Christianity; the truth that Jesus Christ is God; that the Church and the religion He established are not human but divine; that they are made not to last for time only, but for eternity. His word shall not pass away. If we will enter into life we must keep His Commandments.

A STRIKING SPEECH

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT EXPOSES PRUSSIANISM IN IRELAND

"MONSTROUS SUBSTITUTE FOR STATESMANSHIP"

Sir Horace Plunkett, speaking at the National Liberal Club, London, on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 29th, on "An Irish Settlement," said: My life's work lies in the field of social and economic endeavor. In that work I have been associated for thirty years with Irishmen of all religions and political beliefs, from every part of Ireland. For two decades I have kept clear of party issues, believing that economic development was a potential political development. In the early months of 1914, when we were on the verge of civil war, I did suggest that the Ulster Unionists should give a full and fair trial to Irish self-government, with the right to set up a Government of their own if the plan failed. I loathe the partition of Ireland in any shape or form, but I had no fear of it if unity were fairly tried. In 1916 I protested against the abortive scheme based upon the exclusion of six Ulster counties, "the gift," as I said, "of half a Parliament to three-quarters of my country."

DOMINION HOME RULE
We have provided ourselves with the two essentials of political action—a policy and an organization. We demand for Ireland the status of a fully self-governing Dominion, with the single exception that, believing in the strategic unity of these islands, we concede unified naval and military control, which must be predominantly British, but in which, after a political settlement, Ireland should be able to play a useful part.

MONSTROUS SUBSTITUTE FOR STATESMANSHIP

Referring to the English government of Ireland, Sir Horace proceeded:—You are governing Ireland with the help of a huge army of occupation, with all the latest engines of destruction, which in England are already finding their proper place in industry (laughter). This monstrous substitute for statesmanship is superimposed upon the largest police force, in proportion to population, in the world. The poor soldiers hate the job, but, of course, do their duty. The still more unfortunate police, subjected to this cruel ordeal, incur the odium of the Irish people, which ought to be confined to those responsible for the orders under which they act.

In the circumstances, the country is marvellously free from serious crime. The Government recently published an ugly-looking statistics of crime attributable to Sinn Fein. The great majority of these consisted of expressing political opinion unpalatable to the military authorities. Some murders, which everyone must condemn, have been committed, and it is impossible to bring the perpetrators to justice. People who dare to protest against a regime which would not be tolerated for a moment by white people in any other part of the British Empire, are ruthlessly incarcerated. Does it mean nothing to you that even your English jails will not hold prisoners whom every free-born jailer knows in the bottom of his heart ought not to be there? I remember in one of the great military round ups after the Easter Rebellion, being called upon by one of my Irish fellow-workers to intercede on behalf of his son, who had been arrested for having in his possession a suspicious document. It was a doctor's prescription written in Latin, with the usual weird hieroglyphics. The other day I learn that the police had orders to confiscate any documents they did not understand. By one of the latest proclamations, I see that when I go home I may find myself forbidden to leave my house after dark, and while John Bull sits on the safety valve the pressure rises. Beneath all this tragedy, this futility and farce, there is being established an Irish Republic with at least as much moral sanction as your Government can claim, and with ten times its political influence, not only upon the thought and action of the Irish people, but upon the anti-British sentiment throughout the world. Such is the achievement of

the English Government in Ireland today.

INTOLERABLE REPRESSION DESTROYS LAW'S SANCTION

Referring to the moral and political effects of repression, Sir Horace said: If the law has no moral sanction the habit of breaking it will not long be confined to so-called political criminals. Every week that the country remains under this intolerable repression the difficulty of engendering respect for the law will be increased. It will be a terrible addition to the responsibilities and anxieties of the first Irish Government.

THE IRISH CONVENTION'S ACHIEVEMENT

It is said that during the War England did her best to redeem her long, overdue promise of self-government to Ireland, but that the Convention showed that the Irish were incapable of agreeing among themselves as to the kind of Government they required. That is the civil answer, but as civil government has been replaced by military government, there is, of course, a military answer. The Irish Convention, some of whose secret history has been usefully divulged by The Times, in a manner, which I think, will compel further disclosures, strove during eight weary months for a settlement which would bring Ireland into the War. They tried to find a workable compromise between the two extremes—Sinn Fein, with as large a popular backing as any political party could desire; and a portion of Ulster, endowed with British pledges that it shall not be coerced to accept any settlement whatever. I adhere to the statement made in the Prime Minister's report to the Convention that "a foundation of Irish agreement was laid on a foundation of history." Upon this foundation the Government proceeded to build an edifice of mingled mistrust, hatred and contempt, which characterized the existing situation in Ireland. This is a grave statement, and needs justification.

ULSTER'S COERCION

You admit that the Irish question ought to be settled at once, but you say that there is no longer any difficulty in England, only in Ireland itself. What you mean is that Ulster says: "We won't have it," and England has promised not to coerce Ulster. The only real coercion is the moral coercion which Ulster applies to the British Government, who pass it on in the shape of physical coercion to the rest of Ireland. In effect, you have made Ulster, or, more correctly, Belfast, the mandatory of Ireland without responsibility. The best way to redeem your pledge not to coerce Ulster is to take away the army of occupation, and then you cannot do the wicked thing.

THE WAY OUT

Speaking on the question of a settlement by negotiation, Sir Horace said: I have already suggested that the relations between the two islands should be settled by Parliament. The relation between the different parts of Ireland cannot be settled in the British Parliament, where the Irish minority is at least fully represented, and the Irish majority is hardly represented at all. The relations between the different parts of Ireland can only be decided in a democratically elected assembly of the whole of Ireland. You can either set up an Irish Parliament at once to exercise such functions as can be exercised independently of the agreement which will have to be come to between the North-Eastern and the rest of the country, or you can set up a similarly elected Convention or Constituent Assembly to decide these relations. Ulster, since it will be negotiating as a minority with a large majority, is entitled to demand that the settlement so arrived at should receive the sanction of the British Government as one which, in their opinion, provides reasonable safeguards for its special interests. If Ulster refuses to help, an Irish Republic, which is also a righteous moral protest, will become an effective political reality. Speaking for moderate Irishmen—for so I may describe the Irish Dominions League—I ask you to give us a chance to conciliate both extremes.

A WORLD-WIDE QUESTION

In conclusion, Sir Horace said:—In condemning the English Government in Ireland, perhaps it might have sufficed to say that it is not English and not government. I was moved to make an emphatic protest against its continuance by seeing in yesterday's newspapers the wholly anomalous inclusion of Lord French and Mr. Macpherson as alternates in the new Cabinet. I interpreted this Box and Cox arrangement to mean that if Ireland is to be crushed the Field-Marshal will be governed until she is to be governed until she governs herself, then the Chief Secretary. To me the bitterness of what it can only be measured by the glory of what might have been. All through the War, and indeed long before it, I have held that the order of progress of Western civilization depended more than any one thing upon a right mutual understanding between the peoples of the American Republic and the British Commonwealth of Nations. I know, though I cannot prove it, that if your statesmanship in regard to Ireland had been as wise and generous as it had been the reverse, the Irish would have been in the War to the last man and the last woman. And so great a factor is this Irish question in the world's judgment of the liberties of oppressed nationalities that the War might have been shortened by months, if not years, and we might now have been in sight of peace. Yet the guilt does not lie with the British people. They do not know that they are not allowed to know

DO AWAY WITH PRUSSIAN MILITARISM IN IRELAND

Let us, therefore, consider what can now be done. I start with the

assumption that you must at once substitute civil Government for Prussian militarism in Ireland, and that you won't wait to withdraw your army until you can no longer afford to keep it there. (Laughter.) Never again must a British military force be employed for the establishment or support of any political system in any part of Ireland. Once this is conceded the road to an Irish settlement, which you have blocked, will be reopened by a settlement—I mean one which may be reasonably expected to receive, not immediately but when there has been time to examine it, the support of a majority of the Irish people. To fulfil this condition the unity of Ireland must be preserved. The proposal to set up two separate Irelands in the expectation that they will some day come together is open to the fatal objection that the Parliament of the majority would in all probability declare at once its sovereign independence, and the North and South would never come together, except in the not improbable event of each having a quarrel with England. The path of wisdom is now to give to the Irish people a firm offer of the fullest measure of self-government consistent with the necessities of the common defence of the United Kingdom. In other words, the status of a self-governing dominion, with defence reservations.

COL. ARTHUR LYNCH

Saturday morning, the Globe had this editorial reference to the lecturer:

Col. Arthur Lynch, who will speak at Massey Hall tonight on "The Irish Question," is one of the most remarkable men of the day. Born in Australia, he was educated at Melbourne University, where he received the degrees of M. A. and C. E., afterwards took medical courses in Berlin, Paris, and London, and holds the degrees of L. R. C. P., M. R. C. S., England. He is also an electrical engineer, holding the diploma of the Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité of Paris; a member of the French Society of Physics, the London Mathematical Society, the Aristotelian Society, a number of other scientific and literary bodies. With this broad foundation he made his mark in journalism and added notable contributions to general literature, both prose and poetic, including a novel in French. Indeed, The Sydney Bulletin referred to him a few years ago as the most highly educated of all Australians.

Soon after President Kruger's ultimatum to the British he went to the Transvaal as correspondent of a Paris paper, and in January, 1900, he joined the Boers, being elected Colonel of a brigade which was called "Irish," but was really a mixture of many European nationalities. This, of course, was treason, but having survived the battlefields of South Africa, Col. Lynch was elected M. P. for Galway in 1911, and decided to return to Ireland. He was arrested and condemned to death for high treason, but the sentence was commuted to penal servitude, and after serving twelve months in prison he was released on ticket-of-leave, and finally pardoned by the late King Edward. Though he had taken up arms against the British in South Africa, he became a staunch defender of the Empire when the great European War broke out in 1914, declaring that "the fall of England would mean farwell to the hope of Ireland," and that he was "absolutely and without reserve on the side of the Allies." Having accepted a commission in the British army, he proceeded to Ireland to assist in a recruiting campaign, and there it was that he sent his dramatic appeal to ex-President Roosevelt: "Send me a word of encouragement, or, better still, my great and splendid friend, come yourself in all your prestige and power of influence and help me win the souls of the young men of Ireland to the Allies, cause." In a new Irish Brigade Col. Lynch fought this time for the British Empire and the cause for which it stood.

The Irish question is once more to the front, and his hearers, whether they agree or not with Col. Lynch's solution, will have it presented to them by a picturesque figure of more than ordinary ability.—Toronto Globe, Nov. 8.

FAREWELL GREETING TO BELOVED GUEST

On Cardinal Mercier's departure from America the New York Sun gave him the following editorial adieu:

Cardinal Mercier has departed from the United States, leaving behind him a nation which greeted him with the admiration due to a hero and says good-by to him with the affection given to a friend. He came to this country with his reputation for wisdom, courage and steadfastness firmly established. He goes away from it after having displayed the qualities of dignified gentleness, modesty and unassumingness in a manner which has aroused the keenest personal sympathy for his individuality among all Americans.

Not all great figures in history removed from the setting of their great exploits successfully sustain the scrutiny of strangers, though that scrutiny be founded on good will. Belgium's great teacher-priest underwent such an examination and emerged from the ordeal with heightened stature. The simplicity and genuineness of his attitude in all manner of assemblages revealed the strength of his character. He was ingenuously himself whether he was being acclaimed spontaneously by enthusiastic crowds in the high ways or being honored in the most formal gatherings. In the presence of men of high place and men of no place he manifested always an unvarying interest, an absence of self-consciousness, which seemed to spring from a natural submergence of self in the cause to which he gave all his strength—the salvation of his people.

Of Las Casas it was written by John Fiske that he was the finest spiritual figure between the Apostolic times and our own. There will be found in America today a strong body of opinion to support the assertion that the saintly Las Casas no spiritual figure finer or more engaging than that of Mercier has been seen in this hemisphere or in the world.

the fact. The truth will out, and then the Irish question, as we have known it, will cease from troubling.

FREE REPUBLICS WITHIN EMPIRE

COL. LYNCH'S PLAN FOR IRISH SETTLEMENT

Toronto Globe, Nov. 10

A community of free republics of the British Dominion, strengthened by bonds of friendship, an interchange of citizenship, together for mutual defense, is the solution of the Irish problem, according to Col. Arthur Lynch, one of the most picturesque characters in British public life, who addressed a meeting in Massey Hall on Saturday evening.

The word republic has no dangers for me," said Col. Lynch. "From the first day I appeared on a public platform I have advanced the Irish problem. That opinion has continued to advance. The great War has assisted in the propagation of this idea. But I do not want a hostile republic on the flank of England."

CANNOT IGNORE SINN FEIN

Col. Lynch refuses to criticize the policy of John Redmond other than in a general manner. Redmond, he believed, had given too much credence to the promises of English statesmen. At the last general election Nationalist Ireland gave its decision as to the kind of men it desired as its Parliamentary representatives. Col. Lynch himself was swept away by the Sinn Fein current. The six Nationalists who were elected won their seats because of the suffering of the Sinn Fein movement. He declared it was sheer folly to ignore this expression of opinion.

Lord French's great idea of ruling as large as possible, and not content with that, he has forbidden the Girl Scouts. However, these are not essential to the material welfare of Ireland, but he has gone farther and shut down those fairs which are held from week to week.

But suppression did not end here. A host of newspapers were closed up. The Spark, a sheet of four pages as large as newspaper, whose editor is a young woman of twenty-one, was suppressed. I think it will light again and it will be a burning flame. Nationalist papers were suppressed and also Labor papers. One had no connection with the Sinn Fein beyond expressing sympathy, and others never went beyond the orbit of constitutional agitation. A man was sent to prison at hard labor for two years for singing a rebel song at a concert, a song which has been sung on hundreds of English platforms.

The Parliament of De Valera had been elected by the constitutional machinery of the British Government. Yet in the face of this Lord French had suppressed this Parliament. Col. Lynch did not believe that Ireland was drifting toward physical force. He did not object to direct action, but he said he had a right to demand where this physical force existed. It did not exist at the present time to any degree in Ireland. If Ireland was armed to the teeth the use of force to accomplish Sinn Fein aims was still an impossibility, for England could, by using her navy, reduce Irish cities to ruins in 24 hours. There was no use of working oneself into a frenzy, since, after all, sense and reason must prevail. Information should be taken from all sides; Irishmen should search and inquire in order that a structure could be built for the future.

Mr. D'Arcy Hinds, in a brief address to introduce Col. Lynch, blamed the appeal of the Sinn Fein and Ulster movements to direct action for the present state of Ireland. "What was needed was a good, strong Government, a good, strong police force and a good, strong garrison, to see that both obeyed the law. He stood, he said, for constitutional agitation.

NUN-DOCTORS IN POLAND

A Polish nun was the first woman dentist that the American relief workers found in Poland. She had been pulling teeth of soldiers for many armies and her equipment was much the worse for wear when the Americans found her. Besides the nun-dentist attached to this small military hospital in Slonin, there are five other nuns who give medical treatment. One is a surgeon/who has performed several major operations and though lacking in up-to-date operating appliances is very lacking in skill. Great ingenuity was displayed by the nuns in conducting their hospital. In their operating room they had sterilizers made of brass shell cases and all their tableware they made themselves, including earthenware bowls and wooden spoons. The Red Cross aided them with hospital supplies.—Catholic Bulletin.

RIGHT STATES ARE REPRESENTED BY

STUDENT WINNERS OF THE NINETEEN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO NOTRE DAME BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. MOST OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS, ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, ARE FOR COURSES IN THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS.

Archbishop Giovanni Bonzano, of Washington, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, has returned to the United States. He left New York for Rome last June, having been called there by the Pope to make a report of his mission in the United States.

New York, Oct. 27.—Following a luncheon given by the Belgian Ambassador to King Albert of Belgium, at the Waldorf-Astoria last Saturday, His Majesty conferred upon Archbishop Hayes the decoration of the Grand Officer of the Crown. This royal insignia was bestowed in grateful recognition of His Grace's splendid work as chaplain-bishop of the United States Army and Navy during the War.

Washington, Nov. 4.—Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, rector of the Catholic University, before a distinguished group of churchmen and laymen, headed by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, bestowed the degree of doctor of laws upon King Albert of Belgium, at McMahon Hall last Thursday afternoon, following a similar distinction paid the royal visitor by George Washington University.

Mgr. W. H. Nolens, the noted Catholic Parliamentarian of Holland, has arrived in Washington as the representative of the Netherlands Government to the International Labor Conference now in session at the National Capital. Father Nolens has been a member of the Dutch Parliament since 1896 and for the last ten years President of the Catholic Parliamentary Party in the Lower House. Last year Queen Wilhelmina entrusted Mr. Nolens with the formation of the Cabinet.

The next production of the famous Passion Play by the pious folk of Oberammergau will probably be given in 1921, according to a letter received by Cook & Sons of New York from Franz Bauer, the Plate of the Passion Play in the play in 1910 the wife of Anton Lang, who represented Jesus Christ, is dead, also three of his daughters, one of whom represented Martha. Seventy of the performers and nineteen members of the orchestra died during the War.

King Victor Emmanuel at the invitation of Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, on Friday visited the ancient Basilica of St. Peter, near Pisa, where excavations are being made which seem to prove that the site was actually visited by St. Peter, in whose memory the original church was erected. The present Basilica was erected on the ruins of the early church, built in the fourth century. Tradition says the church marks the landing place of St. Peter on his way to Rome, the church being near the seashore.

Cardinal Mercier, on the eve of his departure from the United States, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology from the Catholic University of America. The interesting ceremony took place on Wednesday morning, October 29, in the parlor of the residence of His Grace, the Most Rev. Archbishop Hayes, in New York, in the presence of a small but distinguished gathering. The Catholic University was represented by its distinguished President, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, who delivered an appropriate address to Cardinal Mercier.

London, October 8.—In connection with the movement for feeding enemy school children, which is called the "Save the Children Fund," and which works with the Committee for Relief in Central Europe, Miss Jebb, secretary of the fund, has received a letter from the Cardinal Secretary of State. The epistle says that it gives the Holy Father great satisfaction to observe in the undertaking indications of far-reaching significance, especially in the substitution of Christian charity for that of unhappy hatred, which constituted one of the most dangerous results of the War.

Brown University in Providence conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Cardinal Mercier during his visit to that institution in connection with his stay in that city. In conferring the degree President W. H. P. Faunce said: "By authority of the Board of Fellows of Brown University I hereby confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon His Eminence, Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines, Primate of Belgium, sometime professor in the University of Louvain, author, philosopher, Christian, apostle, who through dark and bitter days kept the great soul of a small nation alive, protector of weakness, champion of justice, who never yielded right to might, but by invincible faith subdued kingdoms and put to flight armies of aliens."

CATHOLIC NOTES

Right states are represented by student winners of the nineteen scholarships awarded to Notre Dame by the Knights of Columbus. Most of the scholarships, according to the announcement, are for courses in the College of Arts and Letters.

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