

The Constitution of Ireland Held In Abeyance.

At a time when Mr. Lloyd George is about convening a heterogeneous assembly of men of the most diverse and probably irreconcilable political views, says "The Irish Catholic" of Dublin, for the avowed purpose of framing some kind of a brand new and gimcrack Constitution for this Kingdom, it seems to us specially right that we should reassert our own claim that Ireland already possesses a Constitution far superior in every respect to any mere simulacrum which—in our judgment—is the only thing likely to emerge from the Premier's conference. As a matter of fact, the Irish Constitution—now temporarily in abeyance, owing to the provisions of the highly iniquitous and traitorous Act of Union—was, and is, practically identical with the Constitution of England, which has been so constantly lauded by British patriots and statesmen as the surest guarantee of the happiness, liberty, and prosperity of the subject. The greatest of English modern poets—Tennyson—boasted that it enshrines the fruits of— "Freedom, slowly broadening down From precedent to precedent."

Over and over again English and foreign students of the grave problem which still awaits solution in the case of Ireland have put on record their conviction that the needed solution could be best and most easily secured by the generous application in this country of "the principles of the British Constitution." The essayists and theorists in question have rarely taken the trouble to inquire as to whether or not this Kingdom does not already possess a Constitution of its own, fully sufficient to safeguard the freedom, property, and social rights of all its citizens, but one abrogated or suspended by the legislation for which we are indebted to the malign ingenuity of Clare, Castlereagh, and Pitt. No one possessing even only rudimentary knowledge of the principles of constitutional law will need to be told that the Irish Parliament had absolutely no more authority or right to extinguish itself in 1800 than the Dublin Corporation would have today to transfer its duties and prerogatives to the Corporation of London. Had Ireland possessed at the date mentioned a Supreme Court—such as the United States already possessed—entitled to revise the enactments of her Legislature, the monstrous statute would be incapable of its devious and supine, and, in those days, not improbably, would have been ordered to be burned by the common hangman.

The contention, therefore, which we have maintained during nearly thirty years, and by which we intend to stand, no matter what papier mache composition may be turned out by Mr. Lloyd George's Conference, is that the Act of Union has always been null and void because of its intrinsic fraudulency and the absolute incapacity of its devisors and supporters to legally place it on the Statute Roll. Mr. Gladstone—one of the most acute and accurate masters of constitutional principle who ever held high place among the statesmen of England—fully adopted this view, and hundreds of passages could be quoted, if necessary, from his speeches and writings in support of the assertion. Daniel O'Connell, whose reputation as a lawyer cannot be aspersed, constantly expressed a similar opinion. Therefore it is that we most unhesitatingly repeat our own contentions that, if the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Cabinet have any honest desire to confer on Ireland a genuine Constitution, the simple repeal of the Act of Union will restore to full efficiency the Constitution which that measure feloniously and illegally subverted. No more revolutionary action was ever recorded even in the blood and tear stained pages of the histories of Hayti or Mexico. Consequently, we hold emphatically

that the people of this country should only accept, after careful scrutiny, any conclusion formulated by the forthcoming Conference, and should exercise a discerning judgment as to whether or not it will be one devised to repair the admitted defects in the validity of the Act of Union, and thus to render more difficult the restoration to full vitality of the Constitution they undoubtedly possess, although its operation is temporarily suspended by a statute constitutionally illegal and "ultra vires" in itself. Charles Lucas, Protestant patriot as he was, was never either rebel or separatist, but he maintained—precisely as we do—the inviolability and sanctity of the Constitution of this Kingdom, and he fearlessly denied—as we deny—the right of any mushroom or self-seeking politician, either British or Irish "to inflict on it a new subversion. Lucas wrote, and we unhesitatingly adopt his words: "That these two Kingdoms may never be divided against each other, nor have their just connection broken by any evil administration; that they may neither regard nor know any worldly interest or concern opposite to, or separate from, the other; but that, like the right and the left hands of one and the same body, they may always equally and regularly minister to the mutual health and prosperity of each other as to the common good and support of the whole." No higher or more practical policy could possibly be set forth as an ideal for Irishmen to follow than that enunciated by Lucas in these words, written nearly two hundred years ago—in 1750.

It is worth while considering the origin of that Irish Constitution which we contend still exists, although in abeyance, owing to the Act of Union. All historians admit that Henry II, at Lismore, by solemn treaty with our native chiefs and princes, pledged himself to confer on this country a Parliament similar to that existing in England. That the constitutional liberties even of the people of the latter country were afterwards grossly infringed by the sovereign named and his successors the enforced acceptance of Magna Charta by King John is convincing evidence. That document is generally admitted to have been the foundation of the British Constitution, but that it was intended to serve the same purpose in the case of this Kingdom is convincingly proved by the words of its preamble and by the names of those who extorted its acceptance by a reluctant and scrupulous King. The great charter reads, in part, as follows: "John, by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy, Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices, Foresters, Sheriffs, Provoosts, Ministers, and all his Bailiffs and Lieges, Greeting: Know Ye, That We, in the presence of God, and for the health of our soul, and the souls of all our ancestors, and of our heirs, and for the honor of God and the advancement of Holy Church and for the amendment of the government of our realm, by the advice of our venerable Fathers, Stephen, Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Cardinal of the Holy Church of Rome; Henry, Archbishop of Dublin; William, Bishop of London; Peter, Bishop of Winchester; Jocelin, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury; Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln; Walter, Bishop of Worcester; William, Bishop of Chester; Benedict, Bishop of Rochester; and Master Pandulph, sub-deacon of our Lord the Pope; and of our friend and brother, Eymeric, Master of the Order of Knights Templars in England; and by the advice of our noblemen, William, Earl Marshal, Earl of Pembroke; William, Earl of Salisbury; William, Earl of Warren; William, Earl of Arundel; Alan, of Galloway; Constable of Scotland; Warin Fitzgerald, Peter Fitzherbert, Hubert de Burgh, Steward of Priton; Hugh Nevill, Matthew Fitzherbert, Thomas Bassetts, Philip D'Aubenie, Robert de Ropel, John Fitzburgh, John Marshal, and of our other faithful Commons." It will be seen that Ireland was adequately

represented at Runnymede and

successive English sovereigns fully admitted that all the provisions there put upon record applied as completely to this Kingdom as to England. We cannot now find space to quote the many evidences readily available to prove this contention, although further opportunity may offer. All that we contend for is that Mr. Lloyd George might as reasonably convoke a haphazard convention to play ducks and drakes with the boasted British Constitution as convene one to devise a new-fangled one for Ireland, which already possesses another—only cruelly and wrongfully suppressed for the time being by a monstrous statute which he could repeal in a single night if there was sincere desire to give full effect to the pledges which Mr. Balfour—on behalf of Great Britain—has given to the United States. If this were done, the King could issue his writs for the assembling of his remodeled and modernized Irish Parliament—fully representative of all creeds, classes, and interests—within a week afterwards!

TOM WATSON AS SEEN BY A GEORGIA STATE OFFICIAL.

His Favorite Weapons Turned Against Him.

Tom Watson of unfortunate notoriety is reaping a rich harvest of pretty much the same epithets as he has been hurling at his Catholic fellow citizens. Unable to make any striking success with the exploitation of his anti-Catholic issues, he has, as is well known, turned the energies of his misguided talents against the recently enacted draft-law.

In doing so he has stirred up an opposition, quite as bitter in its way, as Watson's own unreasonable campaign against everything Catholic. We merely subjoin as an illustration of this anti-Watson sentiment an extract of a speech recently held in Buford, Ga., and quoted in the Atlanta Constitution, one of the leading papers in the South.

In an address on "Education and Citizenship" State Superintendent of Schools M. L. Brittain said, after speaking of his own son having enlisted for the war, "But in the sadness there is a pride in his response to his country's call and I would not change places with those of you in Gwinnett who have been led into treason through following that combination of Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold called Thomas F. Watson. Always a common liar by nature and character assassin by trade, he first abused President Wilson for his long patience under German injuries and now that war is declared tries to weaken his arm by counselling his deluded followers to resist the law of the land which has shielded their slacker hides. Will you follow such a yellow dog?"

This is strong language and we quote it merely as an example of how chickens come home to roost. Watson has but set the style for his own undoing. The citizens of Georgia seem quite capable of telling Watson in language he surely can understand, because of such a familiar ring, just how highly he ranks as a prophet among his own.

Ladies' Auxiliary, No. 1.

At the last regular meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary, No. 1, A. O. H., arrangements were made for the annual picnic which will be held at Ontario Beach on Saturday, August 11th. The committee of which Mrs. Eleanor Walsh is chairlady assures a good time. A large program of sports is being arranged and all members are requested to attend and bring their friends. Unlike former years the Auxiliary has agreed on a Basket picnic.

Catholic News Notes

Domestic.

St. Xavier's College, Cincinnati, has constituted military training as a part of its curriculum and compulsory.

In Nebraska two new ecclesiastical additions are the Sacred Heart Academy at Papillion, and the Italian Church of St. Ann, in Omaha.

The Boston Public Library comprises more than 3,000,000 volumes, of which there are 10,000 maps, 30,000 prints and photographs. Its Brown Library of Music has 80,000 volumes; its Barton Shakespeare collection, 14,000; its Spanish collection, 7,000 volumes.

More than 400 girls in the House of the Good Shepherd, Chicago, are making bandages and other things for the armies.

The new Sacred Heart Hospital at Allentown, Pa., will cost \$250,000.

In Arizona a 200-pound Spanish bell brought over 200 years ago, was found several feet beneath the earth's surface.

Because of the war, the building of a new archdiocesan seminary has been postponed.

Edward and Mrs. Joy, of Syracuse, N. Y., contributed \$2,500 to the proposed Home for the Aged.

The Public Library of Kansas City has recently expended \$5,000 for Catholic books.

It is approximately estimated that in the Church the world over, are about 450,000 nuns and Sisters, 20,000 of whom are in mission work in the foreign missions.

From the 178-foot spire of St. Mary's Church at Lafayette, Ind., now floats the American flag.

Mr. John D. Ryan, of New York, has given the debt fund of the Sisters' College, Catholic University, \$1,000.

Foreign.

In 1814 there were 86 Catholic members of the British Parliament.

"The Loggia Papale," a portico with three arches over the Basilica of St. Mark in Rome, and bricked up for many years, is now being restored to its medieval condition.

Recently and within two months six pastors of the diocese of Dublin, Ireland, have died.

The Most Rev. General of the Dominicans, Father Theissling, is on an official visit to the Order in Spain, and from Spain will, if not prevented by the war, come to the United States also for an official visitation.

The Grande Chartreuse, the famous Carthusian Abbey of France, after 900 years, has become an internment camp. One by one the jewels of France degenerate.

Bishop Fallize, of Norway, says: "I have just passed my 72 year. In March I celebrate my episcopal jubilee. I have for a quarter of a century carried my mitre and icy fjords, where the sun shines at midnight and noon possesses a somber blackness."

A Paris message of recent date says the church bells of Perrone were taken away by the German army, but subsequently returned to the town through the interposition of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV.

The White Fathers teach the Arab children the arts of sewing, cooking and dressmaking.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow.

The dead body of Peter O'Brien was found recently at his home in Tullowbeg.

Paul O'Donnell, National bank, Carlow, has been transferred on promotion to Newbridge.

Carlow Co. C. have appointed Right Hon. W. Kavanagh, P. C., D. L.; P. Kinsella, chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

Clare Co. C. have unanimously elected Messrs. J. K. Kett and S. Maguire as chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

W. O'Brien, National bank, Miltown-Malbay, has been promoted sub-manager at Cahir.

Dressed in his uniform as an Irish Volunteer officer, Terence MacSweeney of Cork, a deportee, was married to Miss Muriel Murphy of Cork in the Church of St. Joseph, Bromyard, England, the ceremony being conducted in Gaelic by Very Rev. Father Augustine, O.S.F.C., Dublin, assisted by Rev. Father Mathey, O.S.B.

Most Rev. Dr. Morrisroe was the ordaining prelate at annual ordinations which took place in Maynooth College. Among those present were: His Eminence, Cardinal Logue, the Archbishops of Dublin and Cashel and the Bishops of Cloyne, Ferns and Raphoe.

Cardinal Logue presided at the annual distribution of prizes in the McMahon hall, Maynooth College, in the presence of a large assemblage of Bishops, clergy and students. The conferring of degrees took place in the college chapel. His Eminence again presided. Subsequently the "Te Deum," followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, was sung.

Kildare Co. C. have elected as chairman and vice-chairman respectively: M. J. Minch, G. Wolfe.

Rev. T. A. Finlay, S. J., delivered an address on the advantages of co-operation at the opening of the new creamery at Ballyneale, Kilkenny. Mr. Courtney, I. A. O.S., also spoke.

Married—At the church, Durrow, by the Rev. Father Callery, P.P., V. G., William McFadden, draper, Tullamore, to Ellen, daughter of Owen Hoey, merchant, Tullamore.—At church, Birr, by Rev. E. J. Scanlan, C. G., Thomas Lee, son of Edward Lee, Curragh, Cavan, to Kathleen Dooley, daughter of the late Michael Dooley, Birr.

Eamonn de Valera, Irish Republican M. P. for East Clare, is the son of a Brucee lady, Mrs. Kate de Valera (nee Coll).

At St. Andrew's church, Curragh, by the Rev. M. Dillon, P.P. (with nuptial Mass), Bartholomew Coyle, the eldest son of the late B. Coyle, Kilmoon, Meath, was married to Rose, youngest daughter of the late Charles O'Donohoe, merchant, Curragh.

Lismore Guardians instructed their solicitor, Mr. Ryan, to apply for a mandamus to compel the L. G. B. to sanction the appointment of Dr. T. Cronin for the Tal-low dispensary district.

Rev. P. O'Reilly, formerly of Tang, South Westmeath, is amongst the first of the Irish priests to proceed to China.

Died—William Judge, The Downs, Mullingar.—Right Rev. Monsignor Kelly, D. D., P. P., V. G., Dean of Elphin, St. Peter's, Athlone.

At the recent examinations in Clongowes Wood College, Master Lyssaght Ryan, grandson of Stephen O'Mara, Limerick, won the union silver medal in English composition.

Died—At St. John's hospital, Limerick, Jeremiah, son of the late Michael O'Sullivan, Beelderig, Kenmare, brother of Rev. M. O'Sullivan, Ohio.

Foreign Mission News

Special correspondence by The Propagation of the Faith Society 313 Lexington Ave., New York City

What has been done by the missions has been done through prayer. Prayer has put missionaries into the field, and prayer keeps them there. We should, therefore, pray not only that the heathen be converted, but also that more Christian men and women may devote themselves to the apostolate.

Four revolutions in six years is the record one missionary Bishop in China sends in. With so many political disturbances, followed by pillage and slaughter by bands of bandits, it is a wonder our apostles accomplish all they do in the Flowery Kingdom. But conversions are constantly being made, and China is one of the most hopeful of missionary fields.

Bishop Roy, of Coimbatore, India, has been staying a month in the Nilgiris mountains, the beautiful retreat that claims the most fortunate ones of India during the hottest season. He has been enjoying the cool air, and also giving confirmation to some of the Catholics who go to that region in large numbers. He adds this bit of information:

"I am going to confer priesthood on another aspirant, which will bring my native clergy up to nineteen. Of these, eighteen are in active service, one, eighty-four years old, is no longer able to undertake missionary labor. Needless to say, I could employ many more in my large diocese, but am grateful for everyone added to the staff."

GREEKS TURNING TOWARD ROME.

The movement of the schismatics toward Rome, which has been so marked in the East that that that Propaganda has sent an emissary to this country to further the cause, is not confined to the Orient. Here in the United States similar conversions are taking place, for we read that two hundred and fifty Greek Orthodox Church members, the entire congregation of the church at Willimantic, Conn., have been received into the Catholic church. The abandonment of their schism took place recently at their parish church, their pastor, the Rev. Joseph Kurlyo, having made public profession of faith the Sunday previous in the Ruthenian Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist, Newark, N. J.

ANOTHER AMERICAN MISSIONARY NUN.

Not a few American nuns are already assisting in the apostolic work of different mission countries. We hear from them occasionally, now from China, now from Africa, now from the West Indies. The Philippines also possess—one of these earnest workers in the person of Sister Dora, a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, who is in Lina, teaching school. A letter from her reads:

"St. Agnes' School is poor, having no support except the twenty-five cents a month given by the children who can afford even that. The income from seventy children is very little. However, Providence helps us, and our kind Bishop, Mgr. Petrelli, who is the best of Fathers, encourages us to continue a work which would otherwise be discouraging."

"I, too, am an American from Washington, our beautiful capital, and as such I beg an occasional alms for the good of these souls that we have come so far to save."

In the French Congo, Father Beryean, on a sick call, jumped into a river to save a drowning native. The native clutched his rescuer so frenziedly that both disappeared in the current.

Missionaries in China desire to erect a shrine to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, at Sinkomien.

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