

day afternoon during the current year will be better attended. The Guild has lost a zealous worker in Mrs. O'Meara, who left New Zealand for England a few weeks ago. Articles to the value of £13 17s were presented to various churches during 1913. The following is the balance sheet to the end of January, 1914:—Receipts—Balance in hand, £9 13s 1d; subscriptions to the end of January, 1914, £7 2s 6d; donations, 12s 6d; sale of fancy goods, £1 15s 6d; sale of B.S. beads, 18s 6d; sale of church requisites, £97 17s 6d; discount, 11s 6d; total, £118 11s 1d. Expenditure—Vestments and materials, £80 0s 9d; lawn and linen, £6 7s 2d; postage and carriage on parcels, £3 0s 5d; Customs duty, £6 12s 6d; deposit in Savings Bank, £10 11s; cash in hand, £11 19s 3d; total, £118 11s 1d.

A ceremony of reception took place at St. Dominic's Priory on Tuesday, 17th inst. The young ladies who took the white veil were: Miss Margaret Quigg, of County Derry, Ireland (in religion, Sister Mary John Berchmans), Miss Maria Scully, of Cloonard, Invercargill (in religion, Sister Mary Dorothea), and Miss Mary O'Gorman, of Invercargill (in religion, Sister Mary Vincent Ferrer). His Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin officiated, and delivered the occasional discourse with much impressiveness. The Rev. Fathers Kavanagh and Kaveney were assistant priests, and several other priests were present in the sanctuary. The music was exceptionally beautiful, the 'O Cor Amoris,' by Father Zulueta, S.J., forming an item of surpassing excellence.

HOME RULE

OPPOSITION TO COMPROMISE.

NO FURTHER MODIFICATION.

A London cable of March 10 says:—

In the course of his speech the chairman of the Labor Party (Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald) said there would be no general election until the Home Rule Bill had passed.

The *Times* (U.) says editorially that Mr. Asquith's proposals show a profound miscalculation of the situation. 'This mockery of an offer at the eleventh hour,' says the writer, 'can make no favorable impression.'

The *Standard* (Unionist) describes the offer as grossly objectionable.

The *Evening News* (L.) says that the offer is the final attempt for a peaceful settlement by the Liberals in the House of Commons.

A cable of March 9 says:—

The debate on the second reading of the Home Rule Bill will probably be resumed on the 30th inst.

An influential section of the Nationalists in Ireland dislike the concessions, as they believe they will involve formidable administrative confusions.

Many prominent Orangemen are of opinion that Sir E. Carson has gone too far in promising to accept the Government offer if the time limit is eliminated.

Lord Dunraven is of opinion that the offer of partial exclusion is meaningless unless it is established with the certainty that a scheme will be workable. He declares that the representation of Ulster in the Imperial Parliament, the position of the Lord Lieutenant, and the possibility of the Irish Parliament placing Customs barriers around the excluded counties are three outstanding difficulties.

The *Daily News* says the Nationalists and the greater number of Liberals are against a compromise. It declares that it is impossible to accede to Sir E. Carson's request that Ulster be excluded until a fresh Act is passed, as that would allow a habit of local government to grow up in Ulster with vested interests established, and it would become difficult for the Imperial Parliament to resist a claim for special treatment.

All parties in Ireland are distinctly unfavorable to Mr. Asquith's offer.

The Ulstermen condemn a limited exclusion.

The Nationalists consider that Mr. Redmond exceeded the limits of concession.

The underwriters are charging 10s per cent. to the police for insurance against a riot.

Prior to the Cabinet meeting on March 11, Mr. Birrell, Mr. J. E. Redmond, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. J. Dillon, and Mr. Devlin had breakfast with Mr. Lloyd George, and had a conference that lasted an hour and a-half.

Mr. T. John, M.P., for Denbighshire, introduced a Bill giving Home Rule to Wales. It provides for a single Chamber and women's franchise.

The *Times* says it is rumoured that Mr. Lloyd George is seeking to induce the Nationalists to agree to the terms which Sir E. Carson can submit regarding Ulster. Many of the Liberals are willing to meet Sir E. Carson in abrogating the time limit, but the Nationalists at present refuse to agree to further modifications.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that the Nationalists and the Government are in complete accord.

In the course of a leading article the *Times* says it is surprised that the Government, having gone so far, did not in the interests of its own cause adopt a simpler and less contentious principle than excluding the whole of the province of Ulster.

In the House of Commons Mr. Asquith asked members to postpone a number of questions relating to the details of the Ulster proposals, and promised a general statement on Monday.

The *Tablet* says that Ireland has no use for a coerced and conquered Ulster, which would become an Irish Alsace. It says it is impossible to control events at the end of six years. The Nationalists should make a virtue out of necessity.

Mr. O'Connor says that Ireland will never consent to perpetual exclusion. He would sooner lose the Bill than go to the wilderness for another generation. The idea of temporary exclusion is equivalent to the Bill's provisions regarding reserved services. The excluded counties must automatically come under the jurisdiction of the new Parliament after the transition period.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham, gave Mr. Asquith credit for his anxiety to prevent calamities, but said he could not expect that Ulster would disband her organisation and forsake the method by which alone she had been able to secure a hearing. If the scheme were passed into law, exclusion would be the main issue at future elections. Every dish would be Irish stew, and scalding hot at that.

Sir Edward Carson, in a letter, says: 'We are going to make good in action all we have been saying. We are preparing for a two years' struggle that will be grave and almost unprecedented in recent history.'

Mr. Devlin, M.P., in an article in *Reginald's Newspaper*, argues that the Carsonites are irreconcilable. The Home Rule Bill should be passed as it stands, and the Government should enforce the law against the aristocrats who are plotting rebellion.

Mr. F. D. Acland, Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, commenting in a speech at Acton on the recent debates, said he had never heard speeches that were more lacking in statesmanship, in sense of responsibility, or in the feeling of human decency than that of Mr. Bonar Law, leader of the Opposition. He added that the Government did not intend that there should be any further modification of the Home Rule Bill, as it would only lead to further demands.

MR. CHURCHILL'S DECLARATION.

Mr. Churchill, speaking at Bradford on March 15, said that only the effecting of an agreement on the question would make it worth while for the Government to recast the Home Rule Bill. The duty of the Unionists was clear. If they did not like the Act they must agitate for a majority. If they won they could amend or repeal the law. The Liberals sought to allay old hatreds in Ireland, not to create new ones. They wanted to give the people what they wished, not to force upon them what they disliked. Mr. Asquith's offer on principle was the last offer the Government could or ought to make. If the Tories rejected that offer it could only be because they