

promising straightforwardness, make us thankful that it has been placed upon record. 'Belgium was bound in honor to defend her own independence. She kept her word. The other Powers were bound to respect and to protect her neutrality. Germany violated her oath; England kept hers. These are the facts. The laws of conscience are sovereign laws. We should have acted unworthily had we evaded our obligation by a mere feint of resistance. And now we would not rescind our first resolution; we exult in it. Being called upon to write a most solemn page in the history of our country, we resolved that it should be also a sincere, also a glorious page. And as long as we are compelled to give proof of endurance, so long we shall endure.' In spite of all that has been, is being, and will be suffered, there is not in the minds of the gallant Belgians the faintest shadow of regret. 'Across the smoke of conflagration, across the steam of blood,' there is not one who would be willing to cancel this last page of their national history.

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It is natural that the German authorities should have winced at being told in plain terms that 'Germany violated her oath: England kept hers.' It is natural also, considering their now well-known designs, that they should have been displeased when the Cardinal in frank but measured words declared: 'I hold it as part of the obligations of my episcopal office to instruct you as to your duty in face of the Power that has invaded our soil and now occupies the greater part of our country. The authority of that Power is no lawful authority. Therefore in the soul and conscience you owe it neither respect, nor attachment, nor obedience.' But it is equally obvious that the arrest of the Cardinal and the attempt to suppress the Pastoral were at once an outrage and a blunder. So far from suppressing the document the German policy has been the means of giving it a magnificent advertisement. The first and immediate result has been to secure the instant publication of new editions of this great moral instruction in French, Flemish, English, and Spanish, and effective arrangements for their distribution throughout the world. The document will, in fact, become a classic in the already voluminous literature of the war. Doubtless when this, the greatest war on record, is ended, each of the Allies will publish a standard and official history of the struggle: and it may be taken as certain that in each of these epoch-making publications the noble Pastoral of the noble Cardinal will find a high and honored place.

Notes

A Tipperary Protest

One of the new destroyer leaders for the Fleet is to be called the 'Tipperary,' so that the music-hall marching song has apparently made an impression even in official circles. Meantime the town of Tipperary, though enjoying more than its full share of the limelight, professes itself not to be sure, all the same, that it is being fairly treated. Its complaint is voiced by a humorist who, under the title of 'A Protest from Tipperary,' occupies half a column in the *London Star* with a protest 'on behalf of a number of influential residents of that town.' The extraordinary impression, he says, which has got abroad that Tipperary is a place of exceptional inaccessibility has given great pain to the inhabitants of our pleasant town. With the object of repairing before the summer tourist season sets in the harm done by this mischievous and entirely false idea, please allow us space to prove that so far from Tipperary being 'a long way,' it is easier to get there than it is to get to many of the more famous beauty spots of Ireland. By reference to *Bradshaw*, he points out that the journey from London to Tipperary can be made in less than thirteen hours. 'Unfortunately,' he adds, 'no definite evidence has so far been discovered, but in the town itself little doubt is enter-

tained that the rumor as to the length of way to Tipperary was instigated by the people of Limerick. Their jealousy of the growing popularity of Tipperary has long been notorious.'

Mr. T. P. O'Connor and Cardinal Mercier

In a recent interview with a representative of the *London Daily Chronicle*, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., had something interesting to say regarding Cardinal Mercier. He is (said Mr. O'Connor) a saintly man and one of the intellectuals of Belgium. His appearance is so beneficent and so sweet that everybody who meets him admires, respects, and loves him, and recognises in a very short acquaintance that he is entitled to the high position he holds in his Church. He is a great man, and one of the greatest sons of Belgium. As a personal friend and admirer I feel Cardinal Mercier's arrest very keenly, and yet, although it is a shocking affair, it is not by any means surprising. Anyone who has watched the doings of Germany in general must have been prepared for some such act. I cannot help thinking, however, that it is one of the brutal acts of clumsy German policy that will recoil on the heads of that country. The arrest is a German blunder, a German crime, and a German avowal. It is a blunder, because it will antagonise further the neutral nations of the world, especially among Catholics: it is a crime, because anybody can see that what the Cardinal said he was perfectly within his rights in saying; and it is an avowal, because it shows that Germany now regards herself as entitled to annex Belgium and destroy her independence. Discussing the excuse given by the German authorities for the arrest, Mr. O'Connor asked: 'What does it mean? It is quite true that the Pastoral Letter of Cardinal Mercier referred to the independence of Belgium, but if Germany did not mean to destroy that independence, what right had she to interfere?'

Some Orange Futilities

Orangeism might fairly be expected to have the sense to hold its peace at a time like the present; but since it will not do so, it must take what it gets. It gets some fairly hard knocks from the *Sydney Bulletin*, which thus comments upon a recent futile 'demonstration' in Sydney:— 'Brother Robinson and his Orange crowd held a dreary demonstration in Sydney on Anniversary Day. The bite had gone out of the Walls of Derry, and the Boyne was a back number. The British Empire is fighting for its life against Prussia, which is mostly Protestant and has a strongly Protestant State Church; for Prussia is the head and front of the offending. Its other enemies are Roman Catholic or Mohammedan. Its allies are Roman Catholic, Mohammedan, Greek Church, Buddhist, Shinto, and sundries. It hopes that the Catholic States of Italy and Portugal will join in, also the Orthodox Greek State of Roumania. Bulgaria, which runs a Church of its own, will be welcomed if it is willing to assist. The mostly-Protestant United States keeps aloof. So do Protestant Denmark, Holland, Norway, and Sweden. N.S.W., the most strongly Roman Catholic State of the Commonwealth, reckons that it is making the biggest effort in the Commonwealth. The only insurrection which started in the British Empire was among the Protestant Boers of South Africa. The Pope flatly refused to give his blessing to Catholic Austria in its war with mostly-Protestant Britain. In fact, all the religions have become mixed, and the annual struggle to represent the Scarlet Woman as the cause of all the world's troubles lacked its wonted enthusiasm.'

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The performance in Melbourne was evidently no better. 'Grand Master Snowball, M.L.A., Victoria's Orange lodger,' says the *Bulletin*, 'has discovered the secret of German militarism, the cause of the German navy, the meaning of the Kaiser's ultimatum to Holy Russia, and the origin of the late Paul Kruger's objections to the British flag. "It is proved beyond doubt," said the astounding Snowball to an Orange picnic, "that the war in South Africa was owing to a desire on the part