

signed their treaty with Great Britain, and General Botha, who had led the Boers against England, had driven the Germans out of South Africa, and added the country they had occupied to the Empire. The British democracy had conferred on Ireland a new constitution. That constitution was as safe as the rising of to-morrow's sun. This war had made it safer than ever. It would be put into operation as soon as the war was over, and it would not be changed except in so far as it might be changed and improved in accordance with the friendly expressed wishes of their fellow-countrymen. If their fellow-countrymen who had hitherto been opposed to them could show them any improvement that could be made in the constitution, anything that could make it more acceptable to them, their representation would receive the fullest and most sympathetic consideration from the Irish Nationalists. This new constitution, which gave Ireland liberty, would enable them to take their place in the Empire. That constitution was at stake in this war.

If Germany were to win, the Irish people, instead of governing themselves, would be German slaves. The place to resist the Germans was in France or Belgium, and the time to beat them was now. If the people fully realised the vital issues at stake, there would be no need of conscription, which was one of the evils that Prussianism had imposed on Europe. Dublin and Ireland had done well in the recruiting movement. Since the war began 127,000 Irishmen had joined the British Army, and of this number 25,000 were National Volunteers. Having quoted Mr. Redmond's statement that the highest duty and the most vital interest of Ireland for the moment was to do everything in her power to support the cause of the Allies, the speaker concluded by appealing to the audience to act in accordance with the advice given by their leader, who was the worthy successor of Parnell.

SIX SONS WITH THE COLORS.

Six sons of the late Mr. Patrick Darcy, Cashel, are serving with the colors. Patrick, the eldest, is out since the early days of hostilities with the 2nd Battalion of the Leinsters, and has so far escaped unscathed; Michael is in the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, and has escaped being wounded, although he has been out since August last year; John belongs to the Royal Garrison Artillery, and has been at the front for over eight months; Daniel, who is in the Irish Guards, was wounded once, and returned to the front after a respite in hospital. Matthew was the only member of the family to meet with a serious mishap. Although only 21 years he was right through all the strenuous engagements through which the 18th Royal Irish Regiment went from the beginning of the war; he was wounded in the arm and back, and is for the past four months in hospital. David, the youngest, has joined the Irish Guards. The whole family consists of six sons and one daughter, whose husband, the father of a large family, has also volunteered.

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People We Hear About

The late Bishop Scanlan, of Salt Lake City, left estate valued at £20.

His Holiness Benedict XV. has presented a photograph of himself to Dr. William H. Grattan Flood, K.S.G., the eminent Irish musician. On it in the handwriting of the Holy Father are the words: 'To our beloved son, William H. Grattan Flood, in commendation of his edition of *The Armagh Hymnal* and of his very distinguished labors in the cause of sacred music, we most lovingly impart our Apostolic Benediction.'

M. Regout, who has been appointed Dutch Minister to the Holy See, enjoys a high reputation in Parliamentary circles. In and out of Parliament, in excellent speeches, he has given proofs of his extensive knowledge as a great manufacturer and also as a lawyer. He was born on October 27, 1861, at Maestricht. At the age of twenty he graduated as an engineer at the University of Louvain, and in 1896 as Doctor of Law at the University of Amsterdam, when he sustained a thesis on 'Workmen's Insurance,' a question which, later on, as a member of the first Chamber, and a Minister, he studied more thoroughly. In 1909 he became Minister for the Waterways and Dykes. Through his appointment to the Vatican, the members of the Catholic party in Parliament lose a very capable colleague, who is a man of great authority in various fields of knowledge and activity.

Several London papers (says the *Universe*) seemed to scent a mystery—very likely a scandal—in an official announcement which appeared in a recent supplement to the *London Gazette*. The fault was hardly with the newspaper editors, and is more the result of the cold and unsympathetic manner in which the official circular disseminates its intelligence. The passage was as follows:—'The announcements of the award of the Military Cross to the Rev. William Keatinge, first-class chaplain to the Forces, on p. 6127 of the *London Gazette*, dated June 23, 1915, and to . . . are hereby cancelled.' Together with this passage, some newspapers recorded that so-and-so was removed 'for absence without leave.' The impression left with the reader is that some similar breach of discipline might be responsible for the withdrawal of the former award. But the circumstances are these: Mgr. Keatinge, ranking as a Colonel, was not eligible for a distinction which is bestowed on those of inferior rank. When the official mistake was recognised he was duly created by his Majesty a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The business of growing old is more physical than mental (says a writer in the *Universe*). Nothing helps so much to the conservation of health as intellectual work. It is also perfectly true that all decline in morals involves commensurate decline in physique. An intellectual life, on the other hand, means continuous betterment, both physically and mentally. Let me point to the great brood of hale and lusty scientists of every degree, past and present, whose greater achievements were accomplished as their hair turned white with age, men whose organs of receptivity were more 'nervous' and energetic at sixty and over than in the decades of thirty and forty. Let me instance Dryden, Petrarch, Linnaeus, Roger Bacon, Locke, Handel, Galileo, and Rousseau, all of whom were active, mentally and physically, at an age when the memory is supposed to slip and the faculties of nature wither. Further, Plato, Buffon, Young, Goethe, Voltaire, Herschell, Carlyle, and Malley were active octogenarians. There are men among us to-day who say that Mr. W. E. Gladstone, at 88, knew no abatement from the high level of his exuberant activity. Michael Angelo was in his eighty-ninth year when he finally laid down his pencil and chisel. At 60 a man's energy and nerve begin to ripen, not decline, if he has lived intelligently and intellectually.