

AN AMERICAN OPINION.

The *Catholic Messenger* says that the critics of John E. Redmond in this country do not use common sense or judgment in their criticisms. That he was hoodwinked, fooled, and deceived by the English Government is not a sensible criticism. The Lloyd George, Carson, Redmond agreement, as Mr. Redmond understood it, and as it is acknowledged to have been made and agreed to, was opposed by Lord Lansdowne, who threatened to break up the coalition Cabinet if the agreement as made was carried out. The changes suggested by Lord Lansdowne were immediately repudiated by Mr. Redmond in the House of Commons, he stood by his agreement, as did Sir Edward Carson and Lloyd George, but Lansdowne was powerful enough to oblige the Government to support the changes in the agreement. This certainly was not the fault of Mr. Redmond, who had independence and backbone enough, and loyalty to the Irish people enough to defy the Government, and break his political affiliations of some nine or ten years. This does not strike an impartial observer as being 'hoodwinked' or 'fooled.' He has had influence enough to solidify the opposition to the Coalition Government and that Government is doomed to an early disruption unless it lives up to its agreement, on which it was proposed to settle the temporary government of Ireland. In no instance has Redmond been so magnificent a statesman and leader of the Irish people as in connection with the Lloyd George agreement for putting Home Rule in operation.

TWO HISTORIC REGIMENTS.

A friendly writer remarks that it was very fitting that the Dublin and Munster Fusiliers should be mentioned together in Sir Douglas Haig's reports for bravery on the Somme, because practically the whole lives of the two regiments have been passed in one another's company. Both were raised in India—one as the Madras European Regiment, and the other as the Bengal, and shared in all the fighting from Chandernagore to the Indian Mutiny. The regiments came together to Great Britain in 1868, the first time either of them had set foot on English soil, and both highly cherish nicknames earned in India. The Munsters were styled 'The Dirty Shirts,' as a result of their fighting in shirt-sleeves at Delhi in 1857, while the Dublins are known as the 'Blue Caps,' a name they also won in the Indian Mutiny, when Nana Sahib warned his men against those 'blue-capped soldiers, who fight like devils.'

'PECULIARITIES OF IRISH NATIONALISM'

A correspondent writes:—Under the above heading, you published quite recently an extract from the *Manchester Guardian* alluding, amongst other things, to the Nationalist views of the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, sister of Lord Middleton, who is one of the most persistent opponents of the rights of Ireland. There was an allusion in the note to Miss Brodrick's recent poem on the present state of Ireland under martial law. The following is the poem, which appeared in the *London Herald*—

IRELAND, 1916.

Silent we stand. The iron hand has graven
Print of torture deep on heart and brow.
Beloved, once our own, our thousand treasures,
We may not love ye now.

Silent we stand. The iron hand has smitten,
Brushing our trembling lips to peace again,
Vein of our hearts—forgive our wordless weeping,
We may not voice our pain.

Silent we stand. The iron hand is crushing
Our hearts that burned for thee with sacred flame.
Rose of the world—thine own in deep devotion,
We may not breathe thy name.

Silent we stand. The iron hand baptises
Eire, afresh, with blood and tears thy sod!
Martyrs! one holy place is ours. Unconquered,
Our souls are safe with God.

People We Hear About

The Marchioness of Bute celebrated her birthday quietly on August 19. A daughter of Sir Henry Bellingham, she was married to the Marquis of Bute in 1905. There are four sons and two daughters of the marriage, and Lady Bute, who has strong ideas on the upbringing of children, has introduced a good deal of Spartan simplicity into their training. In the country they run around without shoes or stockings, and it would be difficult to find a healthier or handsomer set of children. Lord Bute enlisted as a private early in the war.

Dr. Charles G. Herbermann, of New York, one of the leading Catholics of the United States, scholar, writer, and editor-in-chief of *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, died on August 24 aged 76. He was a native of Germany. He was president of the United States Catholic Historical Society about 19 years and a member of the Catholic Club and its president one term. His Holiness Pope Pius X. conferred on him the decoration of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice and, at the request of Cardinal Farley, made him a Knight of St. Gregory the Great. In 1913 he was awarded the Laetare Medal.

The new president of St. Edmund's College, Ware, the diocesan seminary for Westminster, England, has been appointed in the person of Dr. Burton, vice-president. He succeeds Mgr. Bernard Ward, who was a brother of Wilfrid Ward. Dr. Burton entered the priesthood comparatively late in life, being educated for law and practising for a time as a solicitor. Most of his priestly career has been spent in teaching and in writing. He has made his own the study of the penal times in England and has published a number of interesting books on the men and manners of those times, editing old works of priests who suffered for the faith, and unearthing heroic lives which went to feed the lamp that never was extinguished.

Only twice in its history has the British Association chosen leading statesmen as presidents. Both, by something more than a coincidence, perhaps, were on the same side of politics, they were uncle and nephew, and one was at the time and the other had been, a First Minister of the Crown. In 1904 Mr. Balfour, when he was Prime Minister, presided at the Cambridge meeting of the association, and ten years previously Lord Salisbury had been president of the Oxford meeting. The Hon. Charles A. Parsons, who was chosen president the other day, is an eminent inventor, and just as successful in commercial life. He won fame and fortune by inventing the turbine engines; and he belongs to a family long settled in Ireland and prominently identified with scientific studies. The 'Rosse telescope' at Birr Castle was for many years the most notable instrument of the kind in the world.

A famous member of the French Academy and one of the most prolific writers among the immortal forty has just died an edifying death. This is Monsignor Fagnat, whose health had for some time previously given cause for anxiety. The distinguished literateur was an enthusiastic contributor to the Catholic journals. When he felt death approaching he put his affairs in order, classified his books and manuscripts, and prepared his soul for the great ordeal. He was attended by Mgr. Herscher, who gave him all the last rites of the Church and assisted him to the end. The Archbishop of Leodicia is writing a commemorative pamphlet on the man who was without doubt the most fruitful writer of our day. His obsequies took place at the Church of St. Etienne du Mont, before a numerous and distinguished gathering. The President and the Minister of Public Instruction were represented.

It is cheering to see so many thrifty families paying spot cash for seven weeks' supply of NO RUBBING LAUNDRY HELP—total amount, 1/-.

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