

small one and not distinguished for intelligence. We will refer to two notorious instances in the disgraceful policy to which we refer. Many papers had some startling headlines about the Gerlach case; some of them were open enough in their efforts to connect the Vatican with the matter. Yet how many of them had the common honesty to put the whole truth before the readers whom they previously misled? Again, a few days ago we had a scare about Irish outrages, and for several mornings timid people were alarmed by cables telling of highway robberies and similar doings in Clare. So clear to any man who knows anything about Ireland was the absolute dishonesty of these reports that we began to suspect that the accentuation of trouble—imaginary trouble at that—in Ireland was but a preparation for some new attempt of Carson's to wreck the cause of Irish freedom. We have pointed out already that the so-called outrages were only measures taken by the Sinn Feiners to prevent Ireland from being starved in order to feed England, and recent news has confirmed that opinion. In matter of fact the news we receive is doled out to us with deliberate intention of prejudicing us. We are not told the naked truth; we are told what the men who pull the strings want us to believe, and that is very often far from being the truth. We therefore warn our readers to beware of cables which deal with Irish or Catholic affairs. The efforts of Sir James Allen to poison the minds of the school-children by circulating lying pamphlets are a part of the game. As far as that manœuvre is concerned we are confident that Catholic teachers and Catholic parents will at once consign such literature to the flames. And the proceeding in question is well calculated to make us endorse every word we said about the Minister of Defence and his tactics some months ago. As regards news concerning the Pope we need only remind our readers of the compact made by England, France, and Russia with Italy, and of the bigotry and dishonor that inspired it. From a Government capable of such a transaction we Catholics cannot accept without suspicion any news items about the Vatican. With that part of the propaganda which deals with the war we have little or no concern. The intelligence of most readers has before now supplied them with an antidote and taught them to be sceptical critics of war news. As regards Irish news we will endeavor, as we have done, to keep the truth of the situation before our readers. We have more than once received assurances from high quarters at Home that our comments on Irish politics are sound, and we need not point out what a difference there has been between our version and that of the secular press where Ireland is concerned. In conclusion let us say that the knowledge that the press is prejudiced should enable us to correct our reading and to apply the necessary salt in proper proportions to the cables offered us with the paper at the breakfast table.

Protestant Platitudes

In the *Dunedin Star* we read recently an account of the opening of the John McGlashan College, Maori Hill. There were many Presbyterian dignitaries in attendance. The Rev. Graham Balfour (president of the Board of Governors) presided. The proceedings appropriately opened with a prayer, followed by Scripture reading. The president then took the floor, and after expressing some very commendable opinions concerning the importance of religious training for the young he delivered himself of the following:—"There is need too, as Mr. Wm. Gray, late of Wellington, says, of the counter education of the people in the broad democratic ideas that the Protestant Churches stand for as against the exclusive and disintegrating ideas promulgated by the education given by the Roman Catholics."

We suppose he had to say something like this. We know that in some churches the religious ceremony is a rank failure unless the Papists get a whack before the proceedings close. But why on earth did he not think of something that had even an appearance of truth? That any man who has his eyes open should

say at this stage of the world that the Protestant Churches stand for democracy is incredible, always excepting of course such paid libellers of Catholics as Howard Elliott. There are very few Presbyterians capable of making such a statement, for the reason that as a body it is hard to find a more learned clergy than the Presbyterian ministers. The Protestant Churches stand exactly for the opposite spirit. They are often State Churches and their head is often the King. If here and there they have broken away from State control still it remains true that it was and is a Protestant principle that ever gave the King control of a spiritual society. What is the Protestant Church in England and in Germany but the strongest bulwark of tyranny? Christ gave the spiritual authority to Peter; Martin Luther gave the Keys to Henry VIII. and to the Elector Frederic; Christ established the Church of the Democracy; Luther betrayed the Democracy to the greatest tyrants that history knows of. Martin Luther's principles the true ideals of Democracy! They were—exactly to the same extent as Henry's principles were principles of conjugal chastity, or Elizabeth's of clemency and charity. If Martin can smile now how he would enjoy this little joke: Martin who, as Schlegel says, was by no means an advocate of democracy, who asserted the absolute power of rulers, and zealously upheld, as Menzel tells us, their princely power and made of their divine right an article of faith. At the beginning of his revolt Luther denied the principle of authority, then he encouraged individualism, and later promoted resistance to established order and rule. At one time his Protestant principles were those of insubordination and revolution; at another he encouraged the most absolute despotism and hounded on princes to the slaughter of the peasants whom he called pigs and brutes. The result of his "Protestant ideals" was to destroy the liberty of the people and to enable rulers to oppress with an iron hand the bodies and souls of their subjects. Hallam and many other candid Protestant writers bear ample testimony to the fact that the Protestant principles meant the destruction of freedom, civil as well as religious, in whatever countries the Reformation took hold. Gibbon, Strickland, Macaulay, and Guizot had no illusions as to the persecuting spirit of the Protestant reformers. The history of Ireland is a striking testimony as to what sort of democratic principles Protestant Churches were inspired by in the past as in the present. Seriously to utter such a statement as that credited to the Rev. President is to disavow all knowledge of the history of the Protestant Churches; and as we said before, the fact that the statement came not from a mercenary ranter but from a respectable Presbyterian clergyman leaves us wondering where we are. Is it a case of the demand creating the supply? We are not surprised at what the president tells us about Catholic education. If he were not too old we should be inclined to suggest that a term in any of our schools would do the Reverend Mr. Balfour a world of good.

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