

this sort of thing were done by Germany what a shriek of wrath and derision would arise from our Jingo press. But whatever we do is right. That is the law now. Knowing that De Valera was already engaged in a struggle for Irish freedom it is not impossible that he would again fight if there were a hope of success, even if that hope depended on the help of a foreign power such as the Orangemen invoked. With him there would be a small section of the Sinn Feiners and a large number of the British subjects who deserted and found a refuge in Ireland during the war; but evidence or no evidence, we state that there is no great pro-German plot in Ireland and no widespread movement towards rebellion. A pro-German plot in America is quite another thing, and we have little doubt that the millions of Irishmen there are willing to help any power that will help them to loosen the tyrant's grasp on the neck of the small nation they love. T. P. O'Connor sadly confesses that they are not pleased with England at present.

### G. B. Shaw Settles the Irish Question

G. B. Shaw is a man of many parts and of infinite variety. He now proposes to settle the eternal Irish question which Lloyd George has so badly bungled. Shaw's method has the simplicity of genius. It is (1) to get the Orangemen on his side by blowing the Sinn Feiners sky-high; (2) to placate the Sinn Feiners by telling them what asses the Orangemen are; (3) then, both parties being well disposed to listen to him, he will reveal the solution of the whole difficulty, and all will live happy ever afterwards. He begins by stating that Sinn Fein is a disgraceful, obsolete sentiment, horribly anti-Catholic, and acutely ridiculous in the presence of a crisis which has shown that countries twenty times as big as Ireland cannot stand alone. The following piece of criticism of Sinn Fein is essentially Shavian: "Forbidden to wear uniform or carry arms, they formed a procession three miles long, fully equipped and armed, and gave an impressive funeral to Thomas Ashe, whose body lay in state under their guard at the Dublin Guildhall, with the British army hiding in the cellar." With a word of ridicule for the pretensions of the Irish in asking for representation at a peace conference, he passes on to discuss the folly of Ulster. Of the Orangemen he says: "They have a penny-dreadful vision of an Irish Parliament establishing the inquisition; massacring the Protestant infants; condemning all the maids of Ulster to the doom of Maria Monk; inviting the Pope to transfer the Vatican to Maynooth; exempting the priests from the jurisdiction of the civil law, making mixed marriages illegal; reviving the penal laws with the boot on the other foot; and crushing the shipyards of Belfast by huge import duties on steel, raw materials, and everything English, whilst dispensing unheard-of bounties to farmers, graziers, dairymen, and convent workshops." He scoffs at the fears of religious persecution and at all the other Orange catch-cries, and he sums up by telling Ulster that, although the South might be able to suffice for itself and support itself, Ulster is up to the neck in old-world industrialism and completely dependent on others for existence. Then comes his solution: "Being obvious it will not be new. It will indeed be older than Parnellism. But when it was new it was too good to be true. And bigger places than Ireland had to come first. It will be none the worse for us now that it has been tried on the kangaroo." This is execrable writing for Shaw, with its "new," "true," and "kangaroo," but one never knows whether he is laughing at his readers or not. Anyhow here is his panacea: (1) Ireland must force Home Rule on England as a measure of common humanity and good political sense—and of course Scotland and Wales will have Home Rule as a matter of course. (2) In a Conference formed for the consideration of Imperial questions Ireland shall be represented. (3) Ireland must get Dominion Home Rule: "It remains only for the Convention Secretariat to draft the Bill. All they need is a pair of scissors and a pot of paste, a set of copies of the British North America Act, 1867, the

Commonwealth Constitution Act, 1900, and the South Africa Act, 1909, with a few special clauses which the Convention must by this time be able to draft with full knowledge of the political, fiscal, and industrial considerations which demand specifically Irish handling and conciliation. Then strike out the colonial names and figures and replace them with Irish names, and the thing is done." As a parting shot he adds the note: "The expense can be covered by selling the existing copies of the Home Rule Bill as waste paper."

This scheme is set forth in a pamphlet entitled, *How to Settle the Irish Question*, by Bernard Shaw (price sixpence net). It is worth spending a few pennies on it. It is more than clever fooling, as all Shaw's humor is more than mere humor. Neither Sinn Feiners nor Orangemen will appreciate his criticisms of them, but in sober truth the solution is just as simple and just as easy as he pretends. Nothing but English stupidity and Tory dishonesty stand between Ireland and the measure of colonial Home Rule which justice and common sense dictate. And because the Tories are both stupid and dishonest England is telling the world that she is fighting for the rights of small nations and all the world is laughing at her hypocrisy—except Ireland, which weeps tears of blood.

### Oliver Plunket

With deep satisfaction all Irish Catholics will read of the decree recently issued for the Beatification of Oliver Plunket, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. He was born at Loughcrew in County Meath. At sixteen he went to Rome to study. He was ordained priest in 1654 after the completion of his collegiate course, during which he was a model of diligence and piety to his fellow students, among whom he was eminent for his ability. There is still preserved in the ancient Irish College in Rome a copy of a petition he sent to the General of the Jesuits on June 14, 1654, praying that he might be allowed to continue in Rome and dwell with the Oratorian Fathers at San Girolamo della Carita. The necessary permission was granted, and for three years he lived among the Oratorians, waiting until such time as his superiors might judge it well to send him to Ireland. In those days every Irish student had to take an oath that he would return home after his ordination and face the danger of persecution and death which awaited him at the hands of the English, who loved Ireland then as they do now. As we have seen, Oliver Plunket was dispensed from his obligation for a time. And while he was at San Girolamo the fame of his learning became known abroad, with the result that he was invited to take the chair of theology in the College of Propaganda, a post he filled with distinction for twelve years. In 1668 he was nominated Archbishop of Armagh, and at the end of August in that year he bade farewell to Rome and went to Ireland. It is related that before he left he went to visit at the hospital of Spirito Santo a Polish priest of great sanctity who embracing him said: "My lord, you are going now to shed your blood for the Catholic Faith." The words were prophetic. On the octave day of St. John the Baptist, July 1, 1681, he was executed at Tyburn, where his head was cut off and his body quartered. As the Pope remarked, speaking of the Beatification of this heroic martyr, it will bring a special joy to the present and past children of the old Collegio Irlandese, which prepared Oliver Plunket so well for his great life and his glorious end. The hearts of all the priests who were educated in the same alma mater will be uplifted by the tidings of this new glory of their mother. Many will flock to Rome to share in the glory when the beatification takes place, and those of us who cannot attend will be there in spirit. There is no country where English is spoken that has not received bishops and priests from the college that prepared Oliver Plunket for Heaven. Not to mention the numbers of distinguished sons she has given to Ireland, she gave to Australasia Cardinal Moran, the present Archbishop of Sydney, the Arch-bishop of Brisbane, the Bishop of Dunedin, and in Dr.