

Current Topics

Religious Training

In a report of a function at the John McGlashan College, in the *Otago Daily Times*, September 2, we find the following speech was made by the Moderator of the Dunedin Presbytery (the Rev. J. J. Cairney) who presided:—

The Chairman said that the Church, from its earliest history, had been definitely associated with religious instruction and training, and those who watched the trend of affairs had come to realise how needful it was that if young people were to grow up God-fearing, true citizens it could only be as they were trained in the knowledge of the truth as it was revealed in God's Word. Otherwise they were allowing their young people to grow up clever without giving them any ballast against the temptations and difficulties that came to them in life. Therefore, let them erect colleges and so set an example and give an illustration of their belief in the fact that education was not complete unless those who were being trained were trained in a knowledge of the truth of God's revelation. They hoped the time was not far distant when, not only in Church colleges and schools, religious education would be recognised and acknowledged, but that throughout the Dominion God's Word would have its right place in the schools and in the education of every child.

It is certainly a hopeful sign that so many prominent men in all the Churches are nowadays insisting on the necessity of religious training for the young. Let us hope that in time all will come to adopt the only logical view which a Christian who is convinced of the supreme importance of faith and morality can hold, and that they will join us in agitating for the right of parents to have their children brought up in schools in which the religion of their fathers is not treated as a subject infinitely less important than reading or writing. We notice that the Rev. Mr. Balfour intimated that Mr. Hanan was approached and invited to be present, but that the Minister had business elsewhere. We should think so. But it would have done Mr. Hanan a world of good had he heard what the President had to say. Receiving deputations of Orangemen who congratulate him on the results of a system so much in keeping with their own mentality is apparently more congenial to him. Will the No-Popery gang repay him after the war?

Hope on

When we see the end clear ahead, says Schüller, we must never waver or lose hope. Many have asked us why, in spite of the machinations of the Carsonites who rule England at present, we have not lost hope in Ireland's future. Perhaps the best answer would be that it is exactly because of them, and because lies and wrongs cannot endure, that we are hopeful. God is watching over His own behind the shadow; and the light is coming on surely. But our real reason for hope is that the leaders and the clergy from whom we hear from time to time inspire us with their own magnificent confidence. They are not fools. They are men of a far higher intelligence than you can find in New Zealand to-day. They know what they are saying, and they know well under what apparently gloomy circumstances they are laboring at present. They have seen their leaders taken away from their midst on a pretext that was so silly that the world now laughs in scorn at the men who fabricated it. They have seen a clean sweep made of every Catholic in a high position likely to help them. The injustice of which we only read they actually suffer. Yet they are hopeful and they tell us that Ireland, united now as she never was before, is on the high road to freedom and that the day of the tyrant is drawing in at last. Eoin MacNeill, the actual leader at present, the same man whom a Government official tried to bribe to impli-

cate John Redmond, John Dillon, and Joseph Devlin in the Easter Rising, said, at a meeting in Armagh on July 21, that the people had only to stand fast a little longer and victory would be theirs; and he, a man who does not speak lightly, concluded his address in the following words which are worth consideration by us all:—

"Their first duty to their country was to honor it, and the best patriot was the man who so loved his country that it was honored in all he did, and who would die rather than consent to his country's dishonor."

Mr. MacNeill concluded by saying that *he spoke with full knowledge when he said there were changes in the air, and that unseen forces were, impelling even an unwilling power towards relaxing, if not removing, the bonds in which Ireland was bound.*

There was another hidden hand that sought to drive Ireland into despair and rage, and make them lose their heads. "Be calm," he counselled, "and confident, and at the same time, leave nothing undone to achieve success."

The London "Tablet" Again

It has a long record of bitterness against Ireland. It is as silly and as ungrateful as the brainless asses of the Denbigh type who put their Jingoism before their religion and who would stand side by side with Orange, pro-German Carson in his attempts to destroy the Irish nation rather than display one single spark of generous feeling for the Catholic land to which they owe so much. From the day when the Catholic Tories black-balled O'Connell, who had saved them from Protestantism, down to the present moment, the English Catholic aristocracy acted the part of Judas towards Ireland on all occasions. And their fitting mouthpiece is the London *Tablet*, which a little while ago insulted the Pope and commented on his Peace Note in a spirit worthy of a Belfast rag. The poor old *Tablet* is at times amusing. It is pitiable but it is also laughable to see its acrobatic efforts to run with the Catholic hare and to hunt with the Protestant hounds. In the issue of July 6, there is an article which easily takes the cake. The *Tablet* makes a sickly effort to persuade its readers that the Irish bishops are opposed to Sinn Fein. The bishops warn the faithful against joining secret societies and other proscribed societies which aim at undoing the Church or the lawful Government. And the *Tablet* vainly attempts to prove that the bishops must include Sinn Fein among these. It is a vain effort indeed. The *Tablet* has evidently as much knowledge of Sinn Fein as a bull has of waltzing, but the *Tablet* ought to have a little knowledge of the recent pronouncements of many of the bishops. We will refresh its memory. The Bishop of Limerick has more than once said that he is with Sinn Fein and that he believes it is on the right path. The great Bishop who preceded him was the idol of the Sinn Fein Party. The Bishop of Cork's address to the Young Men's Club left no doubt of his approval of the splendid Catholic spirit which animated Sinn Fein. The Bishop of Kildare lately recommended the faithful who had taken the anti-conscription pledge to follow the advice of their trustworthy leaders as to the best way to resist, and everyone knows what leaders he had in his mind. The Archbishop of Dublin showed his favor by attending the funeral of the murdered Sinn Feiner, Thomas Ashe, and by sending a representative to vote for the Sinn Fein candidate in Longford, where his Grace held property. The Bishop of Killaloe has stepped into the shoes of Dr. O'Dwyer and is looked on as the spiritual leader of Sinn Fein now. And if the *Tablet* asks for further proof of the sentiments of the Hierarchy it is to be had from the fact that not only the junior clergy but also the majority of the Irish parish priests are Sinn Feiners, and heart and soul with de Valera in his fight for the right of a small nation to self-determination. The *Tablet* quotes with reprobation from an article which denies that the English Government in Ireland is a lawful Government at all, for the reason that it was founded on bribery and

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