

## IS IT NOTHING?

When the government of a country is unrepresentative, as ours, things will be done, good and bad, which are entirely foreign to the spirit of the nation (says the *New Witness*). Particularly when the policy of that government is dictated largely by foreigners will those things be most frequent and most foreign. Thus it is that many things are being done to-day in the name of England which are in the truest sense un-English. When evil things are being done in our name, silence gives consent. Unless we do all in our power to prevent those things being done, by our very silence and inaction we make the evil-doers the more representative and the crime the more nearly ours. At present we can only protest and it is our duty now to protest very vigorously, or sell our birthright in silence and for ever hold our peace. More than six months ago, some hundred Irishmen and a few Irish women were arrested suddenly on a very vague charge, and without trial they were deported from their own country and imprisoned in England, where they remain imprisoned to-day. They were not tried, so we are told, because we were at war and the evidence might give information to our enemies. If that was an honest excuse, which is doubtful, it is no longer valid.

In our own law we admit a man innocent until his guilt is proven, and we hold the innocent to be undeserving of punishment. These Irish men and women, charged with we know not what crime, unconvicted and even untried, are ruthlessly deprived of their liberty. If they are guilty, by all means give them the punishment they deserve, but if they are to be punished by England for England's sake it is our urgent duty to demand that their guilt be proven by due evidence in a fair trial. If we Englishmen can

suffer, without protest, the continued imprisonment of these, so far innocent, Irish people, then all the wares, including this last long and bloody nightmare, which we have fought in defence of liberty, have been in vain, and we are confirmed hypocrites and fools. Then wherever we speak and write the word Liberty we make it an indelible brand of our hypocrisy and folly.

Many base and unworthy things have been done in the name of England, but none baser than this thing, for it eats as a canker at the very roots of our Liberty.

## GERMANY AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

From the beginning Germany helped to establish the Protestant religion in England. Henry VIII. consulted Luther's friend, Martin Bucer (or Butzer) about his divorce. Some time after Bucer left Germany for England, where he became regius professor of divinity at Cambridge. Bucer was frequently consulted by Cranmer, and was specially commissioned with the revision of the first English book of Common Prayer. With Melancthon, Bucer drew up a *Book of Reformation* (1543), to which Luther made objection. The work itself was largely borrowed from a liturgy previously established in Nurnberg and Auspach. The services of the Church of England are occasionally derived from this German work. Bucer, like his friend Luther, was an ex-monk, and was the first of the bunch of ex-monks to get married. He was followed by Bugenhagen (1522), Zwingli (1524), and Luther (1525).

Is it not true that when we really wish to love God the things of this world appear to us as nothing? —*Mother M. of the Sacred Heart.*

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