

schools. Even a Minister of Education like ours could not blind himself to that fact, however much he protests that he is blind. The cry for a time has been that the Government must not give any aid to Catholics, and now the motto is that those poor teachers who work for the love of God and who in their poverty have put the pampered State schools to shame, just as their pupils have beaten the State school pupils out of the field in athletics, are blacklegs and scabs because they work for a small pay! "Don't give them a fair pay. Make them starve. Then call them scabs." Such is the argument of persons who should be very good judges of what scabs and scallywags are in truth! A non-Catholic who attended the latest meeting held in this district said to us next day: "The usual crowd was there—admitted by ticket to a coward's lecture. You people need not worry. There are too many decent people in the Dominion for it to be led by a hired mud-slinger who will hang himself if you only give him the rope." That is the proper attitude for us. Let no Catholic go near the meetings even from curiosity. Let nobody take the slightest notice of the wretched hireling's efforts to earn his dirty gold by outraging the law of Christian charity. Our schools will flourish even more than ever because of the attacks and mud-slinging of such tools. Our Church is too big and too great for anyone of us to concern ourselves about what a professional gutter-rake has to say. And when the last word is said the very fact that no more respectable creature than the defamer of a dead woman is the man selected to speak for the P.P. Ass. is the highest compliment that could be paid to us. The justice and the righteousness of our cause are made manifest by the enemies that rage against us. By the *Otago Daily Times*, May 5, we note that the cultured and gentlemanly P.P. Ass. spokesman met with a slight opposition at Port Chalmers. He delivered the same No-Popery tirade as he had poured forth on Dunedinites a few days previously and called for the extermination of Catholic schools. Then the Rev. Mr. Whyte, of Port Chalmers, moved a resolution directly contrary to the "gentleman's," proposing that every encouragement should be given by the Government to the religious teachers who are trying to save the youth of the country. Mr. Whyte's attitude is a sign that the serious and thinking members of the Protestant Churches recognise the need for schools in which the eternal principles of God's Law are taught. It is also a sign that the few uneducated and irresponsible clergymen who stand side by side with the hired lecturer are in opposition to the spirit of their Churches and people. We wonder how many more parsons will have the courage of their conviction to imitate Mr. Whyte.

Irish Congress in America

American papers just to hand tell us of the greatest hosting of the Gael ever yet known on earth. In all the big American cities the Irish people and their friends assembled in thousands to express their determination that the oppression of Ireland must end for ever. The meeting at Philadelphia was specially notable for the fact that the resolution was put by the venerable Cardinal Gibbons, who came before the immense concourse of free citizens to demand freedom for the land of his fathers, which, after this war, alleged to have been waged on behalf of small nations, still quivers in the grasp of a tyrant. Eminent men of Church and State spoke to the resolution. Remarkable addresses were delivered by Archbishop Dougherty of Philadelphia, Archbishop Mesmer of Milwaukee, Bishop Shahan of the Catholic University, Bishop Gallagher of Detroit, Bishop Carroll of Helena, Bishop McDevitt of Harrisburg, Bishop Allen of Mobile. Jewish Rabbis, Protestant clergymen, distinguished Federal State and city officials also took part in the demonstration. Delegates attended from every State and from Canada, one and all firm in their intention to secure for Ireland the right of freedom for which America's men fought. The following was the resolution read by Cardinal Gibbons:—

"The condition of Ireland, which is the direct result of the deliberate action of the English Government, is an international scandal and a constant menace to the world's peace. So long as England holds Ireland by military force and denies her right to self-government, the Irish people will continue to assert their rights by every means in their power. A state of war exists between England and Ireland, which in the interests of the peace of the world, the Peace Conference cannot ignore, and President Wilson's great task of establishing permanent peace will not be completed until the Irish question is settled on the principle of self-determination, to which he has unequivocally committed himself and the United States in behalf of all small nations of the world."

This resolution is but an echo of others passed, not by Irish meetings, but by the State Parliaments and by Congress, all calling on the Head of the American Government to vindicate before the world the honor of America which pledged herself to make the world secure for all small nations no matter whose selfish interests are crossed. And surely in the face of such a mandate we cannot doubt that Mr. Wilson will bring the British Huns to heel just as he did the Prussian Junkers. England to-day stands for Prussianism in the world. Her plutocrats and her bigots are the last menace to freedom and to the rights of man. America is determined that no special treatment shall be accorded a malefactor and an enemy to the world's peace that had grown hoary in crime before the Hohenzollerns ever darkened the political horizon of Europe. It may be bad for Ireland in the days to come if England leaves the Conference without having the Irish question settled, but it is not hard to see that the consequences for England may be even worse. One thing is certain, there can be no friendship between America and England until Ireland is safe, and there may easily be open enmity. The Huns are stupid, but to risk that is a degree of stupidity that even they might be expected to avoid. In conclusion we quote the powerful words of prayer which Archbishop Dougherty recited at the meeting:

We beseech Thee, Almighty God, to shed light on our minds, that we may see the path of right; and to strengthen our wills that we may follow it.

Gathered together in behalf of a downtrodden nation, we implore Thy blessing upon its children; both upon that remnant of them still dwelling on their native soil: and upon those countless others, scattered over the face of the earth, whose hearts cling to the land of their birth or home of their forefathers.

What people have served Thee as the Irish Race?

In the day of Ireland's prosperity and pre-eminence in learning and holiness, her missionaries carried the light of Thy Gospel over Europe, from the highlands of Scotland to the plains of Lombardy. The pick of her youth peopled Thy holy places in lives of self-effacement.

During the centuries of persecution the flower of her children emptied their veins of their blood as martyrs of Religion. Others were ruthlessly cast forth from their homes and the choice lands of their country were parcelled out to their foes.

The boon of education was forbidden them and then they were mocked by their oppressors as ignorant and uncultured.

Like wolves their priests were hunted down in the fastnesses of the mountains, and a felon's price was set on their heads.

Laws, penalising them with racks and ropes, were enacted to terrorise and crush them.

The bread was taken from the mouths of Irish children and their strong men died of starvation by the roadside.

The roof was pulled down from over the heads of their aged by the myrmidons of absentee landlords.

Combined tyranny and want drove them in myriads to the four corners of the earth.

But wherever they have roamed as outcasts, they have witnessed to Thy Faith; and out of the savings of

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