

band was dead! Were human beings ever treated before as our poor people are treated? I often wondered at the almost wild looks of the paupers while the list of deaths was being read. But I understand it now! Oh! I must drive away the thought of such barbarous cruelty, and not distress you with such pictures of human suffering. But perhaps it is well to think of these things sometimes. Grace, and pray to God to alleviate the misery around us. I do my best to keep up my spirits. I sit in poor Norah's chair every evening till the light in Mat Donovan's window reminds me to go down and read the newspaper or play a tune for my father, while mamma is making her favorite slim-cake for tea. Hugh, as usual, is nearly always in his own room, where I spend an occasional hour with him. He is, however, becoming amiable, and comes out of his den when our Castleview friends make their appearance. I am always glad to see them, and they cheer us up a good deal. Miss Lloyd scarcely recognises them now, and maybe she doesn't get it from Rose, with whom Johnny Wilson is again 'the white-headed boy.' Can you make out this mystery about Hugh as you did the tracks in the snow?

"Ah, we had not so merry a Christmas as that since! But I can't realise that idea of the poet you used to quote about a 'sorrow's crown of sorrow.' I like to remember 'happier things,' and would say with our own bard—

"'Long, long be my heart with such memories filled.'

I take my walk nearly every evening. Great news of Tommy Laby! His uncle, who is very rich, has adopted him. He is in college, and from his likeness he must be a fine fellow. Do you remember his laughing blue eyes and luxuriant curls? Fancy Tommy Laby coming home a polished gentleman to us. Would he have any chance of you? It would be quite romantic. I'm glad I have one more pleasant item to relieve the gloom of this tiresome letter. Nancy Hogan is married to Tom Cary, the carpenter, and they are as happy as the day is long. Tell me all about your great ball. I am all anxiety to know whether it is the white or the pink you have decided on; but as you will have decided before you can get this, I won't give you my opinion, though you say you would be guided by it. Of course you will be the belle, as Eva would have been the beauty. How I should like to go to her profession; but I fear it will be impossible for me to leave home. Mr. Lloyd says still he will never love again. It is a great loss to Edmund that he is not at home, as you have such pleasant parties. I am so thankful to you to give me such graphic descriptions of them. Edmund writes to me sometimes. He and Arthur O'Connor will soon come to spend a few days with Father Carroll, and they all promise to pay us a visit. How glad I'd be if you would come. The light is fading. I'll take to thinking now, till Nelly Donovan lights her candle. Good-bye, dearest Grace, and believe me ever your affectionate friend,

"MARY KEARNEY."

(To be continued.)

The Irish Revolution and How It Came About

(By WILLIAM O'BRIEN.)

CHAPTER VI.—THE TWO POLICIES IN ACTION.

It must not be supposed that the mistake concerning the Protestant Minority which "The Home Rule Cabinet" now mournfully acknowledges was made for lack of incessant forewarnings and entreaties, or that those of us who now point the moral of its unwisdom are, like the Ministers themselves, only wise after the event. At each successive stage of the controversy—under a Tory Government, under a Liberal Government, and under a Coalition Government alike—we of the All-for-Ireland school can claim without presumption to have iterated and reiterated, with moderation and solemnity, but without wavering, that any true Irish settlement must be sought by a combination of all Irish and English parties for an object loftier than party strategy, and above all that delicate deference must be paid to the traditional particularities and even prejudices of Ulster. Two further propositions may be respectfully postulated as matters of common agreement by this time: viz. (a) that there is not one of our detailed suggestions—

for years held in derision and for a parable of reproach to us as factionist and traitorous—which would not now be recognised as concessions of such obvious good sense as to seem commonplace, and (b) that up to a certain date they would have been closed with by Ulster as a satisfaction of all the reasonable requirements and apprehensions of the Protestant minority.

To make good this claim, it may be convenient once for all to set out the terms of the Settlement by Consent which we proposed in the very words in which I challenged the verdict of the city of Cork, and which I was returned without an opposing voice to press upon the Government. It will be seen that they cover the three points on which "the apprehensions of our Protestant countrymen and not in Ulster alone" were most sensitive.

"1. (*The Ulster terror of parting with the active authority of the Imperial Parliament.*)—We propose, for an experimental term of five years, to give the Ulster Party which would remain in the Imperial Parliament (say ten, with the possible addition of two members, one for Trinity College, and one for Rathmines, to represent the Southern minority) a direct suspensory veto upon any Bill of the Irish Parliament unless and until it shall either be approved or rejected by a resolution of the Imperial Parliament, to be passed within one month after the exercise of the Veto. Further, to give the Ulster Party the right upon a signed requisition to the Speaker of discussing on a motion for the adjournment of the House of Commons, any administrative Act of the Irish Executive dealing with Education, Justice, or Police. For the experimental period, these powers would give the Protestant minority the direct and active protection of the Imperial Parliament in a much more effectual way than they possess it at present. Such a suspensory veto may seem an unheard-of concession to a minority, and so it is. It would in my judgment be gladly submitted to by the best thinking men of our race, in the belief that it would serve as a wholesome restraint upon an infant Parliament in its first inexperienced years, and in the firm conviction that nothing will be attempted which would either tempt the Ulster Party to exercise the Veto or the Imperial Parliament to enforce it. The concession would, of course, be unendurable unless (failing a fresh Act of the Imperial Parliament for its renewal) it were to expire at the end of the experimental period, by which time a General Election will have been undergone and the new Imperial Parliament placed in a position to judge of the Irish Legislature by its actual record.

"2. (*The insignificance of the minority in a Dublin Parliament.*)—As the Bill stands, the Ulster group will undoubtedly be a somewhat attenuated one, as it is bound to be by a pedantic adherence to existing geographical boundaries. Nor would any fancy property franchise be, to my mind, tolerable in the popular chamber under modern democratic conditions. We should propose to deal, unsymmetrically but effectively, with the question of giving the Protestant minority a representation proportioned to their numbers and their natural claim for adequate protection by increasing the proposed representation in the Schedule to 20 for Belfast, 16 for Antrim, 8 for Armagh, 16 for Down, and 8 for Londonderry, which with a proportional vote (or, better still, a cumulative vote) extended to the rest of the country would yield a Protestant minority vote of at least 60 in the Irish House of Commons. Here you would have established a body which could not possibly be put down by oppressive means, and which would only have to win the adhesion of some 30 Catholic Nationalists at the utmost to form a governing majority upon a National Peace programme which would efface all the old distinctions. What a career of unhopd-for power and noble patriotism for the present Unionist Minority, whom the Imperial Parliament has stripped of every vestige of political power over four-fifths of the country and can never by any possibility of its own authority restore it! Sensible Irishmen would make little difficulty about assenting in addition to such local powers as, apparently, Sir E. Grey would delegate to Ulster—appointments, for instance, of County Court judges, Inspectors of Education and County Inspectors of Police from competent panels—either by the Ulster County Councils or some other local authorities, but these would be quite insufficient inducements in them-

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