

Thither also came two of the most remarkable men of the southern province: Florence McCarthy, Lord of Carberry, and Donald O'Sullivan, Lord of Bearhaven. McCarthy, 'like Saul, higher by the head and shoulders than any of his house,' had brain in proportion to his brawn; O'Sullivan, as was afterwards shown, was possessed of military virtues of a high order. Florence was inaugurated with O'Neill's sanction as McCarthy More; and although the rival house of Muskerry fiercely resisted his claim to superiority at first, a wiser choice could not have been made had the times tended to confirm it.

"While at Inniscarra, O'Neill lost in single combat one of his most accomplished officers, the chief of Fermanagh. Maguire, accompanied only by a priest and two horsemen, was making observations nearer to the city than the camp, when Sir Warham St. Leger, marshal of Munster, issued out of Cork with a company of soldiers, probably on a similar mission. Both were in advance of their attendants when they came unexpectedly face to face. Both were famous as horsemen and for the use of their weapons, and neither would retrace his steps. The Irish chief, poisoning his spear, dashed forward against his opponent, but received a pistol shot which proved mortal the same day. He, however, had strength enough left to drive his spear through the neck of St. Leger, and to effect his escape from the English cavalry. St. Leger was carried back to Cork, where he expired. Maguire, on reaching the camp, had barely time left to make his last confession when he breathed his last. This untoward event, the necessity of preventing possible dissensions in Fermanagh, and still more the menacing movements of the new deputy, lately sworn in at Dublin, obliged O'Neill to return home earlier than he intended. Soon after reaching Dungannon he had the gratification of receiving a most gracious letter from Pope Clement VIII., together with a crown of phoenix feathers, symbolical of the consideration with which he was regarded by the Sovereign Pontiff."

(To be continued.)

THE PEACE POINTS.

J. Victor Loewi, a student of journalism at Marquette University, Milwaukee, contributed to the *Wisconsin News* the following revision of the poem about the "ten little, nine little nigger boys":—

Fourteen simple peace points
Sent across the brine;
England knocked out five,
So then there were nine.

Nine unbiased peace points
Inscribed on Wilson's slate;
Italy resented one,
So then there were eight.

Eight U.S. peace points
For which we all did strive;
France disliked three,
So then there were five.

Five impartial peace points
From the land of liberty;
Belgium frowned on two,
So then there were three.

Three Wilsonian peace points
From a man both tried and true;
Japan balked on one,
So then there were two.

Two surviving peace points
For which the war was won;
Bolsheviki had their say,
Leaving only one.

One solitary peace point,
With fourteen we'd begun;
Conference "canned" them all,
So now there are none.

TO CATHOLICS OF NEW ZEALAND

A DOMINION NEW YEAR GIFT

TO THE

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF PEACE, ROXBURGH

LET ALL SHARE IN THIS GIFT.

REV. D. O'NEILL,

Roxburgh, Otago Central.

ALSACE-LORRAINE

(By T. O'HERLIHY, C.M., in the *Catholic Bulletin*.)

The Alsace-Lorraine problem is in the foreground of Politics and War. It is likely to prove a stormy petrel in European hegemony for many a day.

For a decade, after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, it was a node of fiery passions until it settled down in the complaisant *laissez-faireism* of the French anti-clerical and sans-patrie politician. The world-war has stirred and let loose many passions; innumerable feuds have revived which it would take years of disinterested diplomacy to restrain and satisfy. Ambitions for righting wrongs are running high. The Czecho-Slovacs are to have their ancestry made out, their territory mapped, and facilities given them for *legitimate* racial expansion.

Very much to the fore in the map reconstruction process which must come after the war is the allegiance of Alsace-Lorraine. A good deal of discussion has arisen around this knotty question. Arguments have been put forward from the German side and from the French. As the latter have become more resolute in pursuing the war, the demand of the Allies for the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine has become the more imperative. A duel has been going on between English and German politicians, with occasional interjections from the French, regarding this restoration. Germany's Foreign Secretary, Herr von Kuhlmann, asks the question, "Can Germany in any form make any concessions with regard to Alsace-Lorraine?" The answer is:

"No, never! So long as a single German hand can hold a gun, the integrity of the territory handed down to us as a glorious inheritance by our forefathers can never be the object of any negotiations or concessions. I am sure that, whether on the Right or the Left, you will stand for that with equal resoluteness and equal self-sacrifice."

Mr. Asquith quoted the above in his speech at Leeds a few days later, and asked what is this "glorious inheritance"?

"It is," he replies, "territory which had been for long years part of France, which was French in sympathy and sentiment, which was filched from France less than 50 years ago, against the protest, so far, at any rate, as Lorraine was concerned, of the greatest of German statesmen, without any consultation of or regard for the opinions or wishes of the inhabitants, to be held not merely as the price of German victory, but as the symbol of French humiliation. It is, as I pointed out the other day, this act of crude and short-sighted spoliation which was the root and source of the unrest, of the unstable equilibrium, of the competition in armaments, which have afflicted Europe during the lifetime of two generations, and which have culminated in the most terrible war in history."

In 1870 England's views were different. Then she was at the other side of the barricade, for her own interests were not vitally concerned. Her intervention then in favor of France might have prevented the "spoliation" which she now deplors. As a guardian of right, it would have become her duty to do so and thus prevent the many sad issues "which have culminated in the most terrible war in history."

In the light of modern diplomacy, mainly consisting of bullying and wielding of the big stick, between nations, the accusation of "spoliation" of territory after a victorious war does not cast a very great slur on the nation concerned, neither does it destroy its right to the territory acquired. The callous *war victis* was the passing sneer for those who were sold into bondage. All this was the lot of the peoples of Alsace and Lorraine, but, if the ethos of these peoples is now in its proper setting as forming portion of the German Confederation, it is not to be wondered at that they should shrink from a change that would inevitably bring disasters.

The argument that these two provinces in the main belonged to France before 1870 is not very convincing in supporting the French claim, for cannot it be asserted that during a considerably longer period their allegiance was turned eastward from the Rhine? If traditional and uninterrupted ownership and occupation be necessary to assert a just claim to territory when the post-bellum map is cast, there shall be a nice medley; and if the fact that

* *Times*, October 11, 1917.

+ *Times*, October 12, 1917. Lloyd George's speech of January 5, 1918, would seem to mark a climb-down on the part of the Allies. He seems to think that Germany may be prepared to return the more French portions to France, while retaining the more German portions of Alsace-Lorraine.