mination, government only by consent of the governed, was the Sinn Fein war-cry; and, sickened by years of trickery and chicanery, the Irish nation determined that the time had come to demand what was right and just and no longer to remain beggars for the half-loaves that were so often refused. Thereupon, elected by the people and representing the people, the Dail Eirinn began to function as the *de jure* Government of Ireland. In spite of the army of occupation, in spite of arrests and deportations and raids and proclamations, it operated with such success that the British Labor Commission recognised that it was the *de facto* as well as the *de jure* Government in four-fifths of Ireland.

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There can be no just government without consent of the governed: that was one of the principles laid down by Wilson and accepted by Lloyd George. Lloyd George repudiated his principle, as is his habit, but the Irish people determined that they would stand fast by Wilson's maxim, which was sound and just. It became then a conflict between might and right—between the tanks and machine-guns of French and the moral force of a people steadfastly pursuing their just aims. America professes that she came into the war to fight for the rights of all small nations. The Irish people sent envoys to the United States in order to explain that Ireland was ground down by her oppressors just as much as Belgium was by the Prussian army of occupation. The first result of the mission was that on March 4, 1919, by a vote of 216 to 41, the House of Representatives resolved:—

That it is the earnest hope of the Congress of the United States of America that the Peace Conference now sitting at Paris and passing upon the rights of the various people will favorably consider the claims of the Irish people to self-determination.

On June 6, 1919, the American Senate, with only one dissenting voice, resolved:—

That the Senate of the United States earnestly request the American Plenipotentiary Commissioners at Versailles to endeavor to secure for Eamon de Valera, Arthur Griffith, and George Noble Plunkett a hearing before the said Peace Conference in order that they may present the cause of Ireland, and resolved further, That the Senate of the United States express its sympathy with the aspirations of the Irish people for a government of its own choice.

This was moral recognition, at any rate. However, the American Commission betrayed the American people, and Wilson returned broken and ruined because he allowed himself to become the dupe of Lloyd George and Clemenceau. The Peace Conference was a delusion and a snare, and only an instrument designed to bind faster the bonds of the oppressed and to render more secure the strongholds of despotism. The American people recognised this, and they repudiated Wilson and his British and French friends. On March 18, 1920, the Senate passed by a vote of 38 to 36, in committee, and later by a vote of 45 to 38, the following resolution:—

In consenting to the ratification of the treaty with Germany, the United States adheres to the principle of self-determination and to the resolution of sympathy with the aspirations of the Irish people for a government of their own choice, adopted by the Senate, June 6, 1919, and declare that when self-government is attained by Ireland, a consummation it is hoped is at hand, it should promptly be admitted as a member of the League of Nations.

The Yeas on the first poll were the following: Ashurst, Borah, Brandegee, Capper, Colt, Curtis, Freylinghuysen, France, Gerry, Gore, Grona, Harris, Harrison, Henderson, Hitchcock, Johnson, Jones, Kendrick, Kirby, La Follette, McKellar, McLean, McNeary, Morris, Moses, Nugent, Phelan, Pitman, Ransdell, Reed, Sheppard, Shields, Smith, Smith, Sutherland, Walsh, Walsh, Watson. (38.) The Noes were: Ball, Beckham, Calder, Jones, Kellogg, Kenyon, Robinson, Smith, Spenser, Cummins, Keyes, Sterling, Dial, King, Swanson, Willingham, Lenroot, Thomas, Edge, Lodge, Townsend, Elkins, Meyers, Trammell, Fletcher, New, Underwood, Gay, Page, Wadsworth, Hale, Phillips, Williams, Harding, Pomerene, Wolcott. (36.) Twenty-two did not vote.

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Up to date thus much has been won for Ireland by the heroic efforts of de Valera and his friends. The importance of the last resolution is best estimated by the following cable which de Valera sent to Griffith on March 19:—

"A Te Deum should be sung throughout Ireland. We thank Almighty God. We thank the noble American nation. We thank all the friends of Ireland here who have worked so unselfishly for our cause—we thank the heroic dead whose sacrifices made victory possible. Our mission has been successful. The principle of self-determination has been formally adopted in an international instrument. Ireland has been given her place among the nations by the greatest nation of them all."

Writing in *America*, William J. M. A. Maloney, M.D., says, concerning the resolution: "By favorably passing upon the claim of the Irish Republic, and by intervening on its behalf at the Paris tribunal of nations, Congress implicitly and effectively recognised Irish independence."

NOTES

John Ayscough

A reviewer in the *New Witness* is not kind to John Ayscough. But when we consider that the book under review is *John Ayscough's Letters to his Mother During 1914, 1915*, we cannot say that the critic is unjust. We read the book, which was much advertised and rather expensive, and our impression was that the writer of those letters was essentially a snob. A friend of ours wrote to us about it shortly after, and one phrase in the letter made us laugh with approval: "What a snob the man is! He mouths a title like a dog with a succulent bone." Indeed, it was a descent for the author of that delightful book, *San Celestino*, to publish this large volume of his own letters as a sort of monument to his mother. It was a mistake.

The Critic

But let us hear what the reviewer has to say. Speaking of volumes of letters in general, he finds that few or none were worth publishing: "None of Cowley's letters, a mode of composition in which he is said to have excelled, have come down to us. Of Prior, Tickell, Thomson, Young, Dyer, Akenside, the Wartons, there are few of importance known to be in existence. Those of Hayley, which Dr. J. Johnson has brought forward, are not of the interest which might have been expected. Mrs. Carter's are excellent, and many of Beattie's are amusing and amiable: it had been well for Miss Seward if most of hers had been consigned to the flames. Those of Charlotte Smith it has not been thought prudent to give to the public. The greater part of those of Lord Byron, which Moore has brought forth, had better have been spared: they are written in false taste and under a fictitious character. To which of these unfortunates shall we liken John Ayscough, who had the singular idea of constituting a memorial to his mother by publishing, not her letters to him, which may well have been of interest, but above three hundred of the letters which he, as an army chaplain, addressed to her, during the first eighteen months of the war. John Ayscough is fairly well known as a writer of mildly propagandist Catholic novels, and it is perhaps creditable to him that he should have decided to sacrifice to his mother's memory any literary reputation that he may already have won."