

A FOUL CALUMNY.

At present the enemies of Ireland in the British press, especially those whose virulence is intensified by their hatred of the religion which the overwhelming majority of the Irish people profess, are engaged in a campaign of slander against both (says the *Irish Catholic* of June 26). One cannot call it a reckless campaign, as the press liars are careful to give no names, and to mention only in general terms the places where the alleged occurrences took place. A particularly gross specimen of unabashed lying appeared in the *Western Morning News*, of Plymouth, in its issue of 14th inst. Here is what the editor of that paper permitted to appear in its columns:—

"In the town of Limerick, a few days after the murder of a policeman, a priest announced from the altar that he would give 100 days' indulgence to any man to shoot another policeman."

Of course the liar who invented the above yarn was careful to give neither the name of the priest nor that of the church where this occurred. Even those Protestants who have taken the trouble to learn what is the Catholic doctrine regarding Indulgences—a doctrine often put in clear terms before non-Catholics—at once recognised that the story could have no foundation in fact. If the editor of the *Western Morning News* be an honest man he will at once publish the name of the concocter of this story, who should be publicly gibbeted as the base liar and cowardly slanderer that he is.

Lord Denbigh Resigns.

With reference to the foregoing, Lord Denbigh writes thus to the *London Catholic Times*, under date July 7:—

"My attention was called three days ago to a statement which had appeared in the *Western Morning News*, and which was to the effect that a Catholic priest in Ireland had, from the altar, offered 100 days' indulgence to anybody who would go and shoot another policeman. This was the first I had heard of what I regard as a particularly scandalous and silly lie.

"In consequence of the assertion that this had issued from the office of the Southern Irish Loyalists' Defence Fund, I at once wrote to the secretary to make enquiries. I have just been informed that neither he nor any of the committee had seen the statement in question, and that it had reached the office along with other information and been accidentally included in matter contributed to the press. The secretary states that had he seen it, it would not have been made use of.

"When, as the result of earnest requests, I very reluctantly consented to act as one of the treasurers of this fund, I did so under the impression that it was merely for the administration of a fund to assist those with whom I had much sympathy as the victims of a disgraceful, cowardly, and lawless system of terrorism. I was subsequently assured, as the result of an incident which I complained of, that I should be made acquainted with any information it was proposed to send out to the public. This undertaking has not been complied with.

"I absolutely refuse to be in any way connected with an organisation which carried on 'propaganda' about Irish affairs by such irresponsible and objectionable methods as appear to prevail in this office, and I have sent in my resignation as treasurer.

"I greatly regret that I unwillingly allowed myself to be put in this position, and I particularly regret this incident."

It has been announced that Mr. Turton, another treasurer, has also resigned for similar reasons to those actuating Lord Denbigh.

They whose sunshine is from Him who is within them, worship God brightly out of a blessedness which the world cannot touch, because it gushes upwards from a sanctuary that lies too deep for rifling.—Faber.

AN IRISH PEER PAYS TRIBUTE TO SINN FEIN

After his failure to carry his Dominion Home Rule proposal in the House of Lords, Lord Monteagle wrote a letter to the *Irish Independent*, in which he complained that the House of Commons is muzzled, and the House of Lords "closes its ears" when the Irish question is introduced. Then he went on to say: "Meantime a totally new fact is emerging in Ireland which has hardly yet dawned on the British public, and which the Government so far has failed to face. Far more significant than spectacular sieges of police barracks or kidnapping of generals, or even than the sporadic and intermittent railway strikes, is the recent desertion of the King's Courts, and the rise of Sinn Fein Courts in their place—the supersession of the R.I.C. by Sinn Fein police. The Sinn Fein Courts are steadily extending their jurisdiction and dispensing justice even-handed between man and man, Catholic and Protestant, farmer and shopkeeper, grazier and cattle-driver, landlord and tenant.

The Sinn Fein police are arresting burglars, punishing cattle-drivers, patrolling the streets, controlling drink traffic, apparently in some cases with the acquiescence of the local military authorities, who thus show themselves wiser than either the Castle officials or the British Government.

Double Significance.

And mark the double significance of this new fact. It shows the powerlessness, in Sir Horace Plunkett's phrase, of "government with the dissent of the governed." It shows also the growing and remarkable capacity of the Irish people for self-government.

The chief obstacle to a conciliation policy is the North-East Ulster problem. This is now proved insoluble at Westminster: it can only be solved in Ireland by Irishmen. Sinn Fein won't come to Westminster or negotiate with the Government, but Dominion self-government once given—not merely promised or offered—would come to an Irish Constituent Assembly and negotiate there with N.E. Ulster, which might then be in the proud position to keep Ireland—a united Ireland—a willing partner in the British Commonwealth.

G O L D.

Gold, gold, that giveth everything,  
A little grain within the eye-a-glistening,  
To set the blood aglow, the ear a-listening,  
Gold, gold that giveth everything.

Not as the wine to make men dance and sing,  
To tread the earth as cloud on misty wing,  
But in the helpless heart alone  
To make it grand or barren as thine own,  
Gold, gold that giveth everything.

Not as the filmy soul to make men pray for,  
In weary pilgrimage to search the day for,  
Thine is a little strand the whole world compassing,  
A little rainbow strand to which they cling,  
And when they have thee, lo, thy grace is flown,  
Gold, gold that giveth everything.

—ERNEST BENSIMOL, in the *Literary Digest*.

"THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND"  
Memoirs of the Early Days.

A handsomely-bound volume of most interesting and reliable information regarding the foundation and wonderful progress of the Church in Our Own Country. A tribute to the pioneer priests and people of New Zealand that should be widely read.

MAILED 4/- NET, CASH WITH ORDER.

TABLET OFFICE,  
Octagon, Dunedin.

W. F. SHORT

MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR, POWDERHAM ST., NEW PLYMOUTH.  
Every description of Monumental Work undertaken in latest and up-to-date style.