

A SHORT CATECHISM OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

[Written by an Ulster Protestant Minister and dedicated to the cause of Irish Patriotism.]

Question. Name the longest war in history?

Answer. The Seven Hundred and Fifty years of war between England and Ireland.

Q. When did this war begin?—A. In A.D. 1169.

Q. Who were the kings reigning in England and in Ireland at that time?—A. Henry II. was king of England, and Roderick O'Connor was king of Ireland.

Q. Who, and what caused this war?—A. England, by interfering in Ireland's internal affairs.

Q. How would you characterise this war on the part of England and on the part of Ireland?—A. On England's part a war of aggression; on Ireland's part, a war of defence.

2. ON USE OF RELIGION IN THE WAR.

Q. Did Henry II. give any reason for this act of aggression of his?—A. Yes. Henry said he wanted to reform the Irish people religiously.

Q. Then Henry brought in religion as an aid: Did Henry reform the Irish people religiously?—A. Henry tried to take away from the Irish people all their lands, allotting these among his court favorites and military chiefs.

Q. Did Henry II. produce any authority in the way of credentials investing him with the rights of a reformer?—A. Henry displayed a document before the clergy in synod assembled at Cashel, purporting to be a Papal Bull entitling him to such action. This document has been regarded by learned men as false, fictitious and non-papal. At any rate, the Irish claim that neither Henry nor the Pope had any basic right to do as Henry actually did in Ireland.

Q. Have any other English rulers, statesmen, or politicians used religion as a cloak for their interfering in Irish internal affairs?—A. Yes, many of them.

Q. Name some of those?—A. Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth, James I., Queen Anne, Oliver Cromwell, William III., and we might add, Edward Carson, Autocrat, and Lloyd George, Weathercock.

Q. Did the Irish suffer on account of their religion?—A. Yes, the English banned the Irish religion; they robbed and burned down the Irish churches; they hunted the Irish priests for love, giving a bounty of ten dollars for a priest's head. The priests when caught by order of the English authority were beheaded, disembowelled and quartered and the parts were exhibited in public places.

The Irish people were constrained to attend English Church services, and fined 12 shillings if they absented themselves for one Sunday. The Irish people were deprived of the right of education, the rights of property, and of citizenship if they did not accept the English religion. Moreover, the Irish people were constrained to accept the English religion in the English language, the Irish language being banned in its use to them. The English seek to ban the Irish language.

Q. What religion did the English wish the Irish people to accept?—A. In the time of Henry II. the English gave the Irish the Anglo-Roman religion; in the time of Henry VIII. and subsequently they imposed upon the Irish the Anglo-Protestant religion.

Q. Are there many Protestants in Ireland?—A. About one million or one-fourth of the whole is Protestant in religion. There might have been many more, but for the English religious teachers insisting upon giving their religion to the Irish people in the English language, which the Irish either hated or did not understand. Then, too, certain Anglo-Irish teachers of the Belfast-Coote type have been deemed unpatriotic, more disposed to make the Irish English in character than to make them Christians, by which they succeed unwillingly in driving many open-minded Protestants into the fold of the Catholic Church.

Q. Is England a Protestant nation?—A. England can hardly be called a Protestant nation. In politics and commercial affairs England has no religion other than allegiance to the God of Success. England allied herself with France, Italy, and Belgium, against Protestant Germany in the late war. The English Government maintains an Envoy at the Vatican in Rome, which France and Italy do not do; thus England acknowledges the temporal power of the Pope. It is amusing how the Carsonites wink at this. But it is all in the game. England is a nation of traders. She is commercial first, last and always. Were it not for the British working men, England would be a soulless nation.

Q. Is this Anglo-Irish war a war of religion then?—A. By no means. But England uses religion as a camouflage for purposes of aiding her in exploiting Ireland.

3. ARE PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS IN THE WAR?

Q. Do Irish Protestants leave the whole fight against England to the Catholics, and take no part in the defence of their country against this imperious and unscrupulous foe?—A. The Catholics being more numerous, and upon the whole more opposed to England have suffered most and have borne the brunt of the battles. But many brave and noble-minded Protestants have stood and do now stand with the Catholics in defence of their country; these believe more or less in Sinn Féin—which is an Irish phrase for Self-Reliance. In the past as well as now many Protestants have proved themselves worthy patriots, and have served as military commanders, organisers, campaign writers, spokesmen and statesmen in the defence of their country.

Q. Name some of these?—A. Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Wolfe Tone, Napper Tandy, William Smith O'Brien, Robert Emmet, Thomas Davis, John Mitchell, Henry Grattan, John Stewart Parnell, John MacNeill.

Q. Name some other Irish leaders who have taken part in the great war and distinguished themselves, though not Protestants?—A. The O'Neills, Hugh, Shaue and Roe; Patrick Sarfield, Daniel O'Connell, Michael Davitt, Arthur Griffith, Roger Casement, James Connolly, Thomas Ashe, Thomas MacDonagh, Patrick Pearse, T. D. Sullivan, E. Sheehy Skeffington, Laurence Ginnell, Thomas Kelly, Mayor and the present acting-Mayor O'Neill of Dublin, Mayor Thos. MacCurtain of Cork, just recently murdered, Mayor O'Dougherty of Derry, President Eamon de Valera, and Mayor T. MacSwiney.

Q. Name some leaders on the English side?—A. General Strongbow, the Earl of Essex, paramour of Queen Bess, G. Carew, a ruthless Minister of the same Queen, Oliver Cromwell, scourge of Satan, William of Orange, of pious memory, William Pitt, English Imperialist, Viscount French, famous in retreat, Edward Carson, autocrat, and Lloyd George, Weathercock.

1. ENGLAND'S METHODS IN THIS WAR.

Q. Mention some of England's methods of war for the conquest of Ireland, other than religious?—A. In general. Spoliation of the land, deportation of the Irish from certain zones, plantation of these zones by Anglo-Saxons, confiscation of large areas for this purpose such as the notorious six counties in Ulster; and in particular the use of fire, sword, artificially produced famines, and more recently the up-to-date use of tanks, machine guns and bombing planes, and defamation of Irish character.

Q. How has England treated prisoners of war and political prisoners?—A. In times past she beheaded, disembowelled and quartered them; then exhibited the parts of the body in public places. More recently she hangs, shoots or imprisons them indefinitely, without trial or even charge in many cases.

Q. How has England treated the Irish women and children during the war?—A. She has often been known to shoot them down indiscriminately, and without pity. She has quartered her soldiers upon them, to eat them out of home and place, and invade the chastity of the Irish women. She has driven women and children from their cabin homes, and has thus forced them to live upon wild fruits and wild vegetables and on asses' flesh; and the mothers dying of hunger have become food for their own children, the little ones having been known to feed upon the flesh of their own mother!

Q. Why have the civilised nations permitted England to engage in such a long and atrocious war upon Ireland?—A. The nations have not known the Irish side of the war, nor the suffering of the Irish people. Reason obviates.

Q. Does England give any public reason for this long horrid war upon Ireland?—A. Yes. England tells the world the Irish cannot govern themselves! England makes the nations believe that her work is wholly philanthropic!

Q. Does England deal so with other nations and peoples over which she gains power?—A. Yes. Somewhat after the same manner she treats India, Egypt, colonies of peoples, of various nationalities in South Africa, while Mesopotamia and contiguous peoples lately put under her shall doubtless soon feel the pressure of her heel. England says of these also: they cannot govern themselves!

Q. Does England class the Irish with the natives of these countries—India, Egypt and other states of Africa?—A. Yes, England says, like these, the Irish cannot govern themselves: a noted English statesman, Lord Salisbury, designated the Irish Hottentots! And England's apology to the civilised world for her atrocious duel in Ireland is: The Irish cannot govern themselves.

Q. What reply do the Irish give to England?—A. The Irish say, we want no favors from a barbarous nation; loose us and let us go; get out of our country!

Q. And what reply does England give in turn?—A. What we have we'll hold.

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