

There are dark days ahead for Ireland. The few remaining resources of British cruelty will be exhausted. The horrors of '98 will be revived. But the Irish people will not lose heart, and the tyrants cannot break their spirit. In one year from now Ireland will have won. Lloyd George cannot conquer Ireland but he can ruin the Empire. Let us in weal and woe stand by Ireland; let us remember for what our own friends fought and died; they did not fight for despotism; they fought for small nations—Poland, Belgium, and Ireland, too. And no Irishman is worthy of his race if he will not stand fast to the end and refuse to whittle down by one iota Ireland's rightful claims to direct her own destinies.

Still on the cause must go, amid joy or weal or woe,
Until we make our isle a nation free and grand.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

- T. R.—Your letter received and attended to.
- P. C.—Whether in London or elsewhere we cannot say definitely, but we do know that letters going to Ireland are opened and read. Moreover, money is taken out of them. The army of occupation seems to be largely composed of thieves and murderers.
- READER.—Macalpine is Lloyd George's father-in-law. He got the contract for the enormous buildings for the fraudulent "Dope" company out of which many people connected with the "Government of crooks" made thousands of pounds. Is Lloyd George burning down Irish towns with a view to giving the old man another little job?
- E. DE. M.—Historians are not agreed as to the exact date of Our Saviour's Birth. The best opinions are those according to which He was born 747 or 749 years after the foundation of Rome. (The letters A.U.C. in Roman dates mean *Ab Urbe Condita*—from the foundation of the city). The year 29 Anno Domini is probably the date of His death. It was erroneously supposed that He was born in the year 751 A.U.C., from which year the Christian Era dates. According to the more probable dates Christ lived on earth 2945, or 2947 years. We have heard a very learned professor hold that He lived even 38 years amongst men. The years 747 and 749, A.U.C. for the Nativity, and 782 and 781 for the Crucifixion, are all supported by strong arguments.
- TITUS.—Creel in his book on Ireland says that King George was responsible for holding up the Home Rule Bill. Colonel Repington says that the King also saved the pro-German Ulster rebels. He has done as much as any of his race ever did for Ireland—and that is exactly nothing. To be accurate, Queen Victoria asked the Anglican Bishops to proclaim a fast day by way of helping the starving women and children in the years of the famine. Don't worry; God keeps watch above His own. We answered that question concerning the annexation of Schleswig-Holstein three years ago and were almost exterminated by jarring Jingoism for telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Do you recall that sentence of Bacon's? "What is truth, said jesting Pilate." Bill Massey and his master, the horse-whipped one, answer boldly: *Truth is sedition.*

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

C.T.S., London.—*Prayers for Confession and Holy Communion; On Spiritual Communion; Benediction; Devotions to St. Peter; How Shall They Preach Unless They Are Sent? Why? Protestants Should Approve of Confession; Universal Brotherhood.* (2d each).

AN EXAMPLE OF PATRIOTISM.

The friends of an oppressed small nation in Matamata have subscribed the magnificent sum of £130 to the Irish Fund. The newly-formed parish of Matamata is a credit to its pastor, as it is an example to many large and more pretentious towns which have done little or nothing to help our persecuted friends in Ireland in their efforts to make England keep her pledges.

Marriageable Girls, now listen. We advise you all to learn the violin so that later on you too may experience the great delight of playing "Home Sweet Home" while "NO RUBBING" Laundry Help does the weekly washing. New Zealand Grocers.—

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RETURN OF MOST REV. DR. KELLY, ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY.

His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney, accompanied by the Right Rev. Monsignor Coonan, P.P., V.G., returned to Sydney on Tuesday the 7th inst., after his visit to Rome and Ireland. A great concourse of clergy and laity met his Grace at the Central Railway Station, and cheered lustily as the Melbourne express drew in. His Grace, looking well after his trip, found some difficulty in proceeding through the crush of people, who desired to kiss his ring, as he proceeded to the handsome limousine which was presented to him by the laity. As the car drew out of the station, hearty cheers were given for the Archbishop and Monsignor Coonan.

Having arrived at St. Mary's Cathedral, a solemn "Te Deum" was sung by the students of St. Patrick's College, Manly, after which addresses were presented by the clergy and laity.

In the course of his reply, coming to the question of Ireland, his Grace stated that the Bishops were not concerned with Republicanism, or Nationalism, or any otherism. In these things, keep the law of God, and, privately, keep your own opinion. We recognised that the Government of England had spoilt opportunity after opportunity of giving to Ireland those political privileges rightly claimed by other nations. Moreover, that members of the Cabinet had taken part in preparing rebellion against Acts of Parliament, in case the majority of the Irish people secured what they had a perfect right to get. Now, the Irish people had assumed a different attitude, and established their own views in practice. Sixty thousand soldiers, and they have been increased, were sent to Ireland. Raids have been made everywhere, and wholesale arrests have been made without trial. The Bishops were unanimous in saying that all these things were to be regretted, and the blame is to be laid at the door of the present British Cabinet, on account of their deliberate actions during the past four or five years. But they must pray against anger, hatred and ill-will, for they were Christians. God knows what is best.

The Pope's View.

The Vicar of Christ has said that it was quite right for any nation to seek to be delivered from the despotism of any other nation, and have their own Government to promote peace and prosperity by lawful means under God's law. Ireland was suffering for justice' sake. If they gave the people of Ireland their just rights, then there would be peace. Concerning the attitude of the small minority of the people of Ireland, what would be said if the Catholics of Australia, totalling one-fourth, insisted upon imposing their wills upon the rest of the people? That was taking place in Ireland.

His Visit to Ireland.

His Grace then dealt with his visit to Ireland, and explained that he stood at the graves of his father and mother, and of many of his old companions. For three months he had met old friends in Wexford, Ennisceorthy, and Kilkenny. He saw the old roads, the old streams, the old trees and green fields, and people asked him "What he thought about Ireland?" And some said, "I am glad you are here to see what an alien Government is doing." Continuing, his Grace explained that he had an interview with the Prime Minister. They were formerly acquainted, and he was glad to have another opportunity of meeting the Premier. It did him good to hear my views. The provocation in Ireland was terrible, but the country was well organised. The papers make too much with their headlines of these outrages in Ireland. There were outrages in Ennisceorthy and Tullow, where his Grace visited the people. The outbreaks came like a clap of thunder upon the people. The Volunteers were organised, and had their own courts, which the people preferred. They had their own police doing duty, and the Volunteers seemed to secure wonderful knowledge regarding certain events. His Grace then related the execution of a man who impersonated a priest and sought information from prisoners through the confessional. Also the case of another man, who was shot as a spy. In general, the Archbishop said, that secret organisations were against the law of God. We are Christians, and as children of God, are ready to make sacrifices for the country. The present generation in Ireland think nothing of their lives if they were to give them for their native land.

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