

## BRITISH TERRORISM IN IRELAND.

The object of Terence MacSweeney's protest was to call the attention of the civilised world to the British régime in Ireland, under which these bloody deeds are possible (writes the Irish correspondent of the *New Witness*). It has succeeded in that object; but it will not have succeeded fully unless it is understood that the policy of assassinating the leaders of Republican opinion and terrorising the mass of that opinion remain in operation. Of the method of mass terror it is scarcely necessary to speak further. The evidence of it is plain. It is supplied from day to day by every reputable correspondent in Ireland of the English press. The question is merely whether one believes their testimony or that of Sir Hamar Greenwood—and that is a question which carries its own answer. But the assassination of Republican leaders is a matter less easily susceptible of proof. Nevertheless, certain facts, and a general drift of things which permits only one interpretation to be put upon these facts, may be noted. Sir Nevil Macready, in his notorious interview with the Associated Press correspondent, referred quite frankly to the necessity for the "definite clearance of certain men." For many months a sumptuous propaganda has been carried on by Dublin Castle, having for its apparent object the preparation of public opinion outside Ireland for the assassination of Republican leaders. Visiting journalists were told in conversation that there were opposing parties within the Sinn Féin movement. The "moderates" were afraid of the "extremists," the latter having threatened them with assassination if they accepted less than independence. On the other hand the "extremists" were themselves in danger of assassination by what were called "their own dupes." Many press representatives, in London as well as in Dublin, were treated to the story of the opposing parties within Sinn Féin, and the likelihood of one party assassinating the other.

But while this propaganda to prove an alibi for the British Government was being circulated "confidentially," certain documents came into the possession of the Republican authorities providing a certain amount of evidence as to the progress of the assassination campaign and illustrating the complicity in it of high officials of the British Government in Ireland. The documents were published in the *Times*, and referred to in these notes, early in September. On September 17 the British Government in Ireland issued an official statement to the press asserting that the charges contained in the documents were absolutely false, and promising the immediate issue of a detailed refutation. Such a refutation has never been issued; the Government preferred to trust to the shortness of public memory. But clearly a new excuse was needed to explain away certain of the assassinations. Until the second week in September the public outside Ireland was not aware that the English police forces were permitted to shoot "suspects" entirely at their own discretion. This became generally known during the last three weeks of September owing to the publicity given to murders attending the sack of several western towns. It was then discovered that English public opinion would apparently tolerate these murders if it were asserted strongly enough by the British Government that the victims (no matter how innocent they really were) were themselves "assassins" and "murderers." Now several members of *Dail Eireann* are mentioned in semi-confidence to press representatives as leaders of the "murder gang"; and the same members, according to the same source of information, are already marked down for assassination—by their "dupes." The threads of evidence converge. We are getting nearer to the truth. It will out yet.

## Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

December 21.  
On December 6, an old identity passed away in the person of Mr. Edmund Connell, who was born at Woold, Co. Limerick, Ireland, in the year 1840. This fine old Irishman spent the last 43 years of his life in our midst; he leaves a wife and a family of seven. Four of his sons (three of whom had been on active service during the late war), carried his remains to their last resting place. At the close of the great mission given by the Redemptorist Fathers in 1885, when the mission Cross was erected in old St. Joseph's by the Very Rev. J. O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., he remarked that of all the congregation the "big Tipperary Man" alone remained to pray at the foot of the Cross.—R.I.P.

Religion and education should ever go hand-in-hand, as it is only by their union that the highest type of manhood can be developed.

## RIGHT PRINCIPLES IN POLITICS.

The following extract from the American Bishops' Pastoral is of interest:—"Politics has for its aim the administration of government in accordance with the express will of the people and for their best interests. This can be accomplished by the adoption of right principles, by the choice of worthy candidates for office, the direction of partisan effort toward the nation's true welfare and the purity of elections, but not by dishonesty. The idea that politics is exempt from the requirements of morality is false and pernicious; it is practically equivalent to the notion that in government there is neither right nor wrong, and that the will of the people is simply an instrument to be used for private exchange. . . . Each citizen should devote a reasonable amount of time and energy to maintenance of right government by the exercise of his political rights and privileges. He should understand the issues that are brought before the people, and endeavor to co-operate with his fellow citizens in securing by all legitimate means, the wisest possible solution."

## A LITTING "ROAD."

A morning road goes westerly by tranquil hills of Leicester,  
And houses gleaming white as stars along the Milky Way;  
By Brookfields and the Wilbrahams and twenty pretty villages,  
Your eyes will tune the heart's delight a long, long summer day.  
And twenty humble chapels are for grace along the road-way,  
As fair as lilies in a field that bless the passing air;  
Beyond the lowly doorways are candle-lights like roses,  
And paths come up from mill and farm to citadels of prayer.  
Perhaps you know of prouder streets with great cathedral glories,  
Where artists carve a field of flowers in silences of stone;  
The majesty of arch and dome, the splendor of the music,  
And echoes fall with eloquence to every thought and tone.  
But this is what I'd wish to say (if you allow a whisper):  
The altar may be nearer to the fervent village floor;  
The skies lean down with equal grace to meadows as to mountains,  
And God can find an ample place behind a wooden door.  
And this is what I'd like to add—and you may share the blessing—  
I love the twenty altar-stones where I have said the Mass;  
The earnest pathways on the fields are merry rays of glory,  
Where faith sees hope of harvest as the singing seasons pass.  
And when I come to merry death (dear Jesu, be our valor!),  
I'd ask to have the blessings of the altars for a day,  
From Wilbrahams and Brookfields to eastern hill of Leicester,  
Before I take the long, long road between the Milky Way.  
—FATHER EARLS, in *Ire Maria*.

## NEW ORANGE BATTLE CRY.

"Down with the police!" is the latest war cry of the Belfast Orangemen (says an exchange).

A *Daily News* correspondent writing recently from Belfast reports that the Royal Irish Constabulary in that "loyal" city are now the object of attack on the part of "loyal" Orangemen because apparently the constabulary in Belfast did not in all cases put the glass to the blind eye during the recent Orange outrages there. The *Daily News* man writes:—

"The Orangemen who ostensibly attacked the Belfast Nationalists in revenge for the murders of policemen in the south are bitterly antagonistic to the R.I.C. in the north, apparently suspecting them of Sinn Féin sympathies because they refused to stand idly by while the rioters were beating the Nationalists and burning their houses under the sacred symbol of the Union Jack. Already a number of police have been expelled from their houses and their household furniture has been used to feed Orange bonfires. The new battle-cry in Belfast is not 'Down with the Catholics!' but 'Down with the police!' and it appears probable that the next outburst of Orange fury will be directed against the police themselves."

Of course when these armed Orangemen are enrolled as "well-disposed persons" to assist "in maintaining law and order" in Ulster they will be able to murder Nationalists and burn their houses without any room for interference from the R.I.C. Hence the Carsonite anxiety for the enrolment of the "Ulster Volunteers" as an official force in Ulster.