

enforced exile in England; when his child was born he was a prisoner in Belfast Gaol.

Out of gaol, the rushing from place to place was resumed, only at an ever-increasing pace. He seldom dared to sleep at home. Once he did: in the dead of the night he had to rise and escape through the back garden while the military were coming in at the front. He slept at one end of the city one night, at another end the next night, seldom three nights running in the one house—an exhausting life. Then he steps into the place of his murdered friend, Thomas MacCurtain, becomes Lord Mayor of Cork, adding burden to burden; and the world knows the rest.

V.

Only a few things remain to be said. "He would rise at six, but he could have done the business equally well if he rose at eight." He who says this of him had often to keep pace with him on the long roads. Yes, he was too anxious, would burn himself away, and all others about him. He was a "Brand." He had only small respect for tact, which is the homely word for diplomacy. "He treated us all like small boys," one who was just as long in the movement as himself says of him. But he had also patience and forbearance, and was instinct with reverence and chivalry and forgiveness. Without a touch of pietism or of puritanism, he was deeply religious.

He would treat the others like small boys, and would call them at six, yet could still maintain his place among them—because he took far greater toll of himself than of any others, gave more than he asked, was entirely selfless. It is only a poor type of soldier that will not follow such a leader to the end. He was an idealist. His view of life, as expressed in all his writings, was that life could be heightened, on and on, for evermore. Now no one ever knew a genuine idealist who was not housed in a body all sensibility and fineness—made of a rare clay: from which thought we may learn that the martyrs who delivered their bodies to be burned delivered such bodies as would of themselves shrink from the least touch of a taper. Lips of a more sensitive mould than Terence MacSweeney's lips I have never laid eyes on. We have as yet but roughly—very roughly—estimated his martyrdom. We will never know it. Yet those who went to see him lying on his bed of torture came home to us dazzled at the constant activity of his mind, at the serenity of his spirit. In those long hours that he lay there on his death-bed, what thoughts must have come to him, what places must have flashed on his inner eye, what reckonings as to how the end would at last come! For all of us there was one constant consolation—that those who were about him—his wife, his sisters and brothers, as well as his faithful chaplain, Father Dominic, were all worthy of himself.—R.I.P.

AN EPITAPH.

(From the French.)

In beauty she was like that statue cold
That Michelangelo made and christened "Night"—
You'll find it in its marble slumbers laid
Amid a chapel's dim, religious light.

And was she good? Yes, if 'twas good of her
To scatter money idly in the city,
Not caring, and not even thanked by God
Who saw her heart and found therein no pity.

You say she prayed? Ah, yes, if prayer means
A studied attitude, and now and then a sigh
From painted lips, and a self-conscious pose
With those fine eyes uplifted to the sky.

And did she love? Ah, no! her foolish pride
So filled her soul that she had love for none:
She lived and moved and breathed for herself,
And now, poor butterfly! her course is run.

She is no more. But who can say she lived?
I never saw a statue half so dead.
But lo! from her cold hands has fallen now
The book of life in which she never read.

—J.K.

FIVE PLAGUES AFFLICT THE WORLD, SAYS THE POPE.

A Rome correspondent, under date December 24, writes:—"The world is afflicted to-day by five great plagues," said Pope Benedict in reply to the greetings of the Sacred College by Cardinal Vannutelli, at the reception to the Pontiff to-day. They are—Negation of authority; hatred among brothers; thirst for pleasure; disgust for work; forgetfulness of the supernatural objects of life. These evils can be overcome only by the aid of the Gospel, said the Pope, and, therefore, he would never cease to remind the people of it, this being his mission and his intention.

THE VATICAN AND THE UNITED STATES

LEADERS AT WASHINGTON RECOGNISE DEMAND FOR MORAL LEADERSHIP.

The question of the resumption of relations between the United States and the Vatican has reached such a point that it may be accurately said that it is under very serious consideration by political leaders who will be conspicuous in the activities of the next Administration. It is still too early to predict what may or may not be done. There are many very serious problems to be weighed carefully from a political viewpoint. Nevertheless, the subject is more in the minds of those who will have a voice in the direction of national affairs than it has been since formal relations with the Vatican ceased many years ago.

The French Precedent.

The action of various countries of Europe in appointing official representatives to the Vatican, notably that of France, has had the effect of removing many of the misunderstandings that have hitherto existed in relation to the question, and putting it in a clearer light. The spokesmen of the French Government, for example, were careful to explain that the appointment of an official representative to the Holy See was not in any sense a religious move, and would not alter in any degree the relations of Church and State or their activities in their special spheres. It was pointed out, on the contrary, that the question was purely national and that the purpose of maintaining a representative at the Vatican was to expedite the handling of affairs in which both the Pope, as the head of the Catholic Church, and the Government are interested. The proposal of the French Government was accepted in this light by the French Chamber.

It is from the same point of view that the question is being considered in Washington. The initial move has been made by those who not only have nothing to do with ecclesiastical affairs but are not even Catholics. It has been pointed out that if relations are to be established with the Vatican it must be done purely as a national move. There is very little doubt that if it should be decided upon the Apostolic Delegate, as the religious representative of the Pope in his relations with the Church in America, would continue to exercise his functions as at present. The activities of a Nuncio would lie in an entirely different field.

Moral Leadership Demanded.

The possibility that Washington may be the meeting place of another international gathering to discuss an association of nations, which is reported to be in the mind of President-elect Harding, has stimulated interest in the question of the resumption of relations with the Vatican. It is very definitely intimated in despatches from Marion that it is Senator Harding's idea that moral leadership must be the fundamental upon which a successful international body of this character is to be established. He holds, as the correspondent of the *New York Times* puts it, that "no association of nations can succeed without the endorsement of leaders of public thought" in other countries as well as the United States.

From this point of view the position of the Pope is one of commanding importance and his approval of an association of nations which is to direct by moral, rather than military force, international activities would have great weight. If the idea for the proposed association of nations is to be carried out along the lines proposed, European nations which have formal relations with the Vatican would raise the question of the Pope's endorsement of any scheme which might be evolved. Such, at least, is the conclusion reached by some of the political leaders in Washington who have interested themselves in this phase of the international problem.—And if the United States is to take the lead in the formulation of the broad general principles upon which the proposed association of nations is to be founded, the assumption is that exchanges of views between the President and the Vatican would be facilitated by the appointment of an American Minister to the Holy See without, in any way, transgressing upon the American ideal of complete separation of Church and State. The action of France has already pointed the way.

Poor reputations are due to the fact that good intentions are seldom credited.

New Zealand's emancipation from washboard slavery was brought about through the scientific discovery of "NO RUBBING" Laundry Help, together with the hearty co-operation of Housewives and all enterprising grocers. 7

W. F. SHORT

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