

## Current Topics

### Loyal Moryah!

Archbishop O'Shea hit the nail on the head when he told his hearers that the noisy and blatant heralds of the P.P.A. are part and parcel of that infamous Irish secret society which makes loyalty consist in consigning the Pope to hell with pious frequency. The noisiest and most blatant of them all is the admirer of the murderer Cromwell who from the pulpit of his tin temple now and then lectures on Catholic theology. One and all, they mean by their loyalty that they will support any Government that will give them their way and will persecute Catholics whenever the P.P.A., the Council of Churches, or the *Nation* and the *Wanganui Chronicle* demand it. It is loyalty of the same kind that threatened to kick into the Boyne the King's Crown if he dared do justice to the Irish people. Lest our readers have forgotten how loyal were the parsons and the pests of Ulster who backed Carson and the Kaiser against the Irish Catholics, we will recall a few choice expressions of Protestant loyalty. Speaking at Edinburgh, December, 1911, Carson said: "I have been called a rebel, but I do not care for that." At Belfast, April, 1912, he said: "The present Government had treated them with fraud, and if necessary they would treat the present Government with force." (The Council of Churches were not worried over that, were they?) At Blenheim, July, 1912, Carson said: "We will shortly challenge the Government to interfere with us if they dare." At Armagh, October, 1913: "It is good that there should stand beside me here the Lord Primate of Ireland, a very good specimen, if I may so say, of a brother rebel." (Did the Reverend J. J. North lose any sleep over the Protestant Primate's rebellion against the Crown?) In the same strain spoke Galloper Smith, Bonar Law, Captain Craig, and many other loyal heroes who had sworn, when they got their positions, that they would in all circumstances support the Crown. It is not surprising that such perjured people later on tore up their war pledges and by their trickery and chicanery dragged the name of England in the mud. What did they care for England? They cared exactly as much as the P.P.A. or the Council of Churches cares for the Empire. But let us see how loyal were those Orange parsons whose treason never worried the New Zealand Council of Churches half as much as we do when we demand that for shame's sake England ought to keep her word of honor to the men whom she called upon to die for the destruction of Prussian tyranny. One Reverend Anderson, speaking at Irvinestown, May, 1912, said: "He begged of them to put their trust in God and to be ready to shed their blood and risk their lives in defence of the great privileges they enjoyed." That was an honest man. He cared nothing for the Empire but he cared a great deal for his privileges. The Ulster Protestant press boasted that the Kaiser would help them to burst up the Empire, and Ulster Protestant bishops spoke in the same strain, making it quite clear that their loyalty consisted in supporting a Government as long as it maintained their ascendancy over the vast majority of the Irish people. Did the *damunnians domesticus* become perturbed by all this parsonical rebellion? Did the *Wanganui Chronicle* bawl over this treason? Did the loyal Orange Lodges and the loyal P.P.A. worry one whit at the open proclamations of sedition made by parsons and Orangemen? Not a bit of it: the only thing that worries these persons is that the Irish people at home may win, or that Catholics out here may get fair play. What a contemptible gang they are! At home and abroad they are all the same, blatant, boasting, ignorant ranters who from press and pulpit make it clear that the one god they adore is the idol of their own selfish interest. The sad part of it is that we have in Parliament men who are tools of those wretched persons.

### Opportunists

Among the Apostles there was one opportunist. More than his principles, he sold his Master for a

purse of silver, and having sold Him the people to whom Judas went for consolation spurned him with contumely. It is always the way: the *seoinin* kowtows, and his pay is kicking; the opportunist preserves an ignoble silence and his reward is contempt; Judas hanged himself with a rope and his followers are metaphorically gibbeted by all honest men. A dear old Irish priest who has gone to God used to say that the only way to win respect from an Orangeman was to use a blackthorn on him; and conversely the surest way to win scorn from our political and religious foes is to run after them and to make door-mats of our principles for them. It is a splendid thing to see an upright man walking the ways of the world, fearing God alone, proclaiming his faith in all things right and just and holy, and never bending a servile neck to the placemen of the earth. It is fine to see an Irishman who is not afraid or ashamed to stand up for wronged Ireland at all times and to know no other guide in his demands for her than truth and justice. It is inspiring to find a Catholic who is as true to his religion in a crowd of men as he is when on his knees at night in the solitude of his room. But the pity of it is that what is so fine and so inspiring is equally rare. Expediency is the rule among the multitude here. You must not advocate Ireland's just claims openly (like that unspeakable *Tablet* does!), you must always remember that the P.P.A. and the parsons do not like Sinn Fein, and you must talk unctuously about "our Empire, "our fleet," and "our men." Anyhow, what is Ireland to us? What did she give us but the Faith? For the Irish people, with the thought of God ever before them, the Faith was all right, but we have other things besides God to think about, you know, and we must be broad-minded and affable to all. We left Ireland behind long ago, and even if she is a small nation why should we worry about her wrongs and her sufferings? We don't suffer, and making a stand for Ireland might inconvenience us out here." That is exactly the line of thought of our opportunists. They have the purse; they have sold their principles; and honest men have metaphorically hanged them. "Away with de Valera and give us Nosworthy!" is their motto. Archbishop Redwood, Archbishop Mannix, Archbishop Walsh, and Cardinal O'Connell are very foolish persons and they don't know as much as we do." When the people who reason thus are not of Irish birth there is some excuse for them, but for those who are born in Ireland there can be none. But even among the latter there are degrees of infamy. An ignorant layman may plead ignorance: perhaps it is natural that ideal things and spiritual things should not mean much to him. But the *seoinin* Irish priest is in a class below which imagination cannot descend: he sins against the light and for him hope is lost. We thank God that such are few. The day has come when all true men of our race are taking their stand with Archbishop Walsh, Archbishop Mannix, and Archbishop Redwood on the side of right and justice. It is recognised by intelligent men now that to dictate to the Irish people what we think best for them is not only impertinence but contrary to the right theory of sound government. Marked as the division between the sheep and the goats is the division now between the true Irishmen who stand by their country in her dark hour and the miserable *seoinin* who, ensconced in their snug nests, level destructive criticism at every man who ever tried to do anything for anybody. Self is the god of the *seoinin* and the opportunist; they talk and talk and go through life like drones until they die and leave the world better for their absence. If their wisdom only equalled their conceit, if their deeds only equalled their words, the contempt that men have for them would be changed into respect and esteem. But there is no hope: they sin against the light.

### Were the Early Christians Socialists?

It is not uncommon to read in Socialist papers and books that the early Christians were Socialists and that the Gospel of Christ was a revolution in economic theory. Christ, they say, was a Communist who condemned private property and strove to abolish

FOR UP-TO-DATE FOOTWEAR GO TO

**LOFTS**

Phone 3227.

BOOT IMPORTERS.

172 PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.