

Irish people are confident that they are winning and that victory is drawing near. England's present troubles interest us very much in so far as they may hasten Ireland's release from persecution. Perhaps the "Black-and-Tans" will have work to do at home shortly.

The Crusade of Prayer for Ireland

We want to exhort our readers to join in the Crusade of Prayer for Ireland already successfully launched by the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin. Humanly speaking, the Irish people stand alone in their desperate struggle for those rights for which brave men gave their lives in the recent war. They are oppressed and persecuted by the very people who invited men to die for the right of self-determination for small nations, by the very men who begged Irishmen to go and fight in the certainty that the fight was also for Ireland's freedom. These men have now thrown aside their war aims and they are doing in Ireland exactly what they said the Prussians were doing in Belgium. They are making war not only on men but on women and children. The nations of the world stand by and watch the persecution. They, too, care nothing for justice, nothing for humanity, and their apathy to-day is the test of their real sentiments when they told us that they went to war against Germany for the sake of justice. Ireland depends, humanly speaking, on herself alone, and she is fighting with incredible determination against overwhelming odds. But Ireland does not forget that there is a Power above earthly kings and that even to a weak nation God is as a tower of strength. Ireland's chief hope is in God to-day. And we who cannot help Ireland otherwise can help her at the Throne of God by our prayers on her behalf. This is what the Crusade of Prayer asks us to do. Will we not do it for Ireland? Is there one of us that will be deaf to Erin when she asks us to pray for her? It will cost us nothing, and it will achieve much, even a speedy victory, certainly a final victory. Here is a chance for all of us to have a part in Ireland's victory, and surely we will not let it slip by now. Join the Crusade of Prayer at once. Get all your friends to join it. Inquire in the parish school and make sure that all the children are joining it: for of all prayers the prayers of the children are most powerful. Individual prayer is great; the prayer of two or three has a special divine sanction; but a vast union of prayer has always appealed to the Church and had special favors from the Popes, which prove that there is a power and efficacy in united prayer that is wanting in independent and isolated efforts. For this reason, it is good to pray for Ireland but it is still better to pray as a member of the Crusade. Bear clearly in mind what is asked of you. Members of the Crusade are expected to assist at Holy Mass and to offer up Holy Communion for Ireland. Members must hear one Mass and offer up one Holy Communion, but the more Masses heard and the more Holy Communions received with this intention the better. Members are also expected to recite daily the Rosary, asking the Mother of Sorrows and the Comforter of the Afflicted to bring peace and comfort to the children of St. Patrick in their own land. During a visit to the West Coast we were delighted to see how the convents are taking up the Crusade over there. A distinguished priest in Christchurch spoke eloquently to us in praise of the movement and assured us that he had already felt the necessity for a combined Crusade exactly on these lines. As time goes on we trust that every Catholic in New Zealand who loves Ireland will be enrolled in the Crusade, and we hope we shall never hear that there is a single school in which the children are, through the fault of their teachers, denied the opportunity of doing their part for the land to which under God they owe their Faith. The nuns in South Dunedin will send you leaflets willingly. They have had thousands of them printed and you have only to send in your name and to say that you wish to join in this great spiritual campaign on behalf of dear Ireland.

The Grey Lynn Convent

We call the attention of our readers to the appeal made by Dr. Liston in our columns on behalf of the Grey Lynn Convent. Here is an opportunity for generous Catholics to make amends to the devoted nuns for the base calumnies levelled at them incessantly by the horsewhipped parson and his foul-minded followers. We saw for ourselves recently what destruction the fire did and how utterly ruined was the mother house of the good Sisters of St. Joseph. The insurance is so small that it will go only a very little way towards restoring their home to the nuns, who must depend now on the Catholic people to enable them to build a new convent on the site of that which, as far as one can gather, was maliciously destroyed on Good Friday morning. We are sure that readers of the *Tablet* will not be deaf to so noble a call upon their generosity. Priests, nuns, and laity ought to welcome this opportunity of bearing practical testimony to the work done for the Faith in New Zealand, and we trust that Dr. Liston's appeal will meet with a grand response. We wish here to bring before our readers several suspicious circumstances connected with the fire. First, a false alarm was given concerning the same convent a short time previously; second, on the night of the fire the brigade was called out by an alarm given from a signal near Grey Lynn and they found that they were called out to extinguish a seat on a cart in a yard; thirdly, the fire was set going under the verandah near the street, and there were no electric wires near the spot, nor was there anything to suggest that a fire might have accidentally broken out there; lastly, a gentleman who was going to keep his watch before the Blessed Sacrament in Grey Lynn church noticed the fire and at the same time saw an individual coming towards him from the direction of the convent. This person cut across the street and got away speedily when his attention was called to the fire in the convent just behind him. All things considered, there are strong grounds for suspecting that the convent was destroyed by an incendiary, and this conclusion is supported by the opinion of men whose business it is to investigate such matters. In a statement made to the press Dr. Cleary pointed out that atrocious publications making out convents to be places of wholesale debauchery, callous murder, and unspeakable shame were being circulated in the Dominion at present, and that they were being emphasised by similar platform-attacks on nuns, and that this vile propaganda was calculated to produce on ill-balanced minds such results as were produced in Ireland, Canada, and the United States, where convents were actually destroyed by fanatics. Mr. Dickson a leading P.P.A. agitator in Auckland, takes exception to Dr. Cleary's statement and makes in the *Auckland Star*, March 31, a very lame apology for the P.P.A., contending that at the recent meeting in the city of Auckland not one word was said by any speaker in reference to a nun or convent. In an able letter, Dr. Cleary points out that Mr. Dickson has not a word of defence to say concerning the charges that the circulation of infamous printed matter and similar platform-attacks are calculated to produce in New Zealand effects similar to those produced by such agencies elsewhere. Dr. Cleary also points out that with reference to the meeting in question it was publicly advertised that people would be told all about the "story of a convent escapee," and that moreover the organiser of the P.P.A. asserts openly that that association is engaged in what that person calls a campaign against convents. At the time when Mr. Dickson was so hopelessly defending the P.P.A. in Auckland the horsewhipped parson was engaged in Christchurch in doing exactly what Mr. Dickson was trying to make out the P.P.A. does not do. Indeed, it was on the very day that Mr. Dickson's letter appeared in Auckland that a Christchurch evening paper published an account of a dastardly attack made by the unmentionable parson on a Catholic institution in Christchurch. We are happy to be able to say that the unscrupulous P.P.A. hireling overstepped the mark on this occasion and drew down upon himself a well-deserved castigation in the press as well as occasioning a complete exposure of

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