

The orator spoke in clear, impressive tones. Each syllable was followed with anxiety by an audience that scarcely dared to applaud, so eager was the attention commanded by this man whose once familiar face was now of ivory pallor and whose beard had gone completely gray. When he returned to his seat the feelings of the spectators found vent, and the chamber became a scene of enthusiasm such as has been seldom witnessed even within the walls of the old Mansion House.

Pope and Moral Reform

In his message of encouragement to the Dublin Conference of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland (writes S. V. Stewart, in the London *Catholic Times*) his Holiness Benedict XV. used the following words: "The Holy Father congratulates the members of that truly useful and meritorious society on its continued success in distributing good literature amongst the people. His Holiness trusts that all Irish Catholics will co-operate fully in the good

court, the police courts and the coroner's courts? Husbands and wives seem to regard matrimony as a cloak for the deception of one another. Marriage is not looked on as a sacred contract which it is sinful to violate. Married pairs are not satisfied with each other's society. They are continually in pursuit of so-called lovers, and easily yield to temptation. To secure a divorce they resort to all sorts of disreputable tricks, and the impression which the divorce court reports must create upon foreigners is that for the immorality of married people Great Britain can easily obtain first place amongst the nations. As to immoral fashions in dress, who can surpass our women? One can scarcely eschew the conviction that their whole object in life is to seduce the members of the other sex. In trains, in trams, in all sorts of public conveyances they adopt arts which it is impossible to reconcile with ideas of morality. Their breasts are exposed in the most shameless manner. Their skirts are usually as short as decency would permit, and it is impossible to mistake the contour of their restless legs, which frequently find momentary repose resting on one another. It is evidently their belief



Quarterly Communion Breakfast of the members of the Hibernian Society, Wellington, held at the Guilford Terrace Catholic Schoolroom. Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., Adm., who delivered a forceful discourse on the subject of "Faith, Hope, and Charity" (the motto of the society), with special reference to Ireland, at the special Mass celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, is shown seated at the centre table in the forefront of the photo.

and necessary work for religion and country, so that all their interests may be safeguarded by a wider and deeper knowledge of the truth." Assuredly the call on Catholics for the establishment of a better standard of morality was never more imperative. On Sunday morning last a preacher said they were the only hope for the salvation of the country. In Great Britain who is there to-day that asks himself whether a question either of public policy or of private conduct is moral? Apart from the Catholics the citizens give scarcely a sign of recognising the necessity of moral safeguards. Take the question of birth-control. It is vital that the practice should be avoided, but we find Lord Dawson, the King's physician content to assure the Church Congress that there is no use in fighting against it, for it has come to stay. He uttered no warning against it, no cry for a rally of Christians to discourage and suppress it. Such a speech is a symptom that nowadays even men in prominent positions fail to appreciate the need of observing Christian principles in practice. Again, take the habits of the people as revealed in the newspapers, especially the Sunday papers. Could anything be worse than the revelations of the divorce

that the neck is for special display after being scorched by exposure to the sun, and they take care that its beauties, as to which people do not always agree, are visible to everybody. The conclusion to which the old-fashioned traveller is forced to come is that modesty is a virtue which has bade good-bye to public life. At any rate, when he reads of moral slips and falls, he is inclined to believe that the reports may not be far from the truth. For all the disregard of decency the Sunday Press is largely to blame. These papers cater for people of demoralised taste. They spend money to produce accounts of the ugliest and lowest phases of life. If a husband is quarrelling with his wife and the dispute comes before the law courts, they present full and special reports of the proceedings. They offer their readers pictures of women which are often immodest and absolute caricatures. In politics they are as reckless as they are indifferent to moral principles. They cultivate the sensational and care not what the effect of a line of policy may be if it proves acceptable to a large number of readers. Altogether they leave the intelligent reader to think that their views of editorial duties are simply pagan and that they pay little

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