

In December, 1920, General Tudor sent a request to Mr. Collins for an interview, and it was refused in emphatic terms. Last summer when it was determined to send a delegation to London it was stated that the decision not to send Mr. de Valera had been made by his own casting vote. Mr. Collins protested strongly against being required to go, but Mr. de Valera insisted and declared that they should be given plenipotentiary power, pointing out that Dail Eireann would have sufficient safeguard in the fact that the Treaty signed by the delegates would have to be submitted for approval by the whole Dail.

It was Collins who adopted the system of reorganising battalions into brigades. The late Dick McKee (Commandant of the Dublin Brigade) who was taken to the Castle and shot on "Bloody Sunday," evolved the scheme of the flying column. The I.R.A. owed a great deal to the rail-road men. In Dublin "the Guards" did much street fighting. English reports of fights in the country were ludicrous. A British report represented a small body of R.I.C. as being attacked by thousands of "rebels" led by Collins on a white horse at Burgatia House, near Clonakilty.

What really happened was that about 30 I.R.A. men bivouacked for the night in Burgatia House and planned to attack the police barracks. About 100 Constabulary surrounded the house and began to fire.

The I.R.A. officer ordered his men not to fire until the enemy was within visible range. The "Black-and-Tans" kept blazing away without any reply and began to advance in short rushes. The silence of the I.R.A. detachment puzzled the attacking force and the British began to wonder if there was anyone in the house.

END OF THE FIGHT.

Finally the "Black-and-Tans" charged up the avenue. Commandant-General Beaslai adds,

"When they came within close range our men opened fire with deadly effect. Some of the R.I.C. fell, the others ran. In the confusion our men escaped without a scratch."

Of course, Michael Collins was not there at all. The I.R.A. detachment was in charge of a youngster of 18 who had served in the British Army in the Great War.

The flying columns got their sustenance from the people. These men, as a rule, drew no pay. Their soldiers in Dublin could not be supported in the same way, so they received money upon which to live. It was really ration pay.

The British talked of murder gangs. There was not a man in the I.R.A. whose activity did not require financial sacrifices, as well as the risk of life and limb.

A man on whole time activity in the army was paid no more than he would get at his ordinary occupation. They did this to eliminate any mercenary motives in joining the army. Officers of G.H.Q. were receiving salaries at which a junior clerk in a New York office would turn up his nose. The salaries of Cabinet Ministers were mere sustenance allowances.

Michael Collins, as Minister of Finance, had charge of the funds. Only in one instance did the British succeed in capturing several thousand pounds from the Adjutant-Generals' office.

Collins moved about, he said, without a disguise, and took no special precautions for self-protection beyond cultivating the habit of riding an innocent looking bicycle and sleeping in a different house every night. Those who took the most precautions were the ones most often caught.

Collins walked into hotels and public restaurants, made appointments at street corners, and was held up and searched several times without being recognised. His bluff always pulled him through.

Mulcahy had some of the narrowest escapes of any man in the movement. On one occasion he just had time to pull on his trousers and escape through a window in the rear. Documents which he left, and which were found, were what first impressed upon the British how serious a menace the Irish Army had become. Among the Mulcahy documents were a plan for putting out of action the entire electric plant in Manchester. When the British returned to the Castle and examined the documents they sent a detachment of soldiers to surround the whole district.

Mulcahy dropped on to the roof of a house, whose occupants were Jews, and these Jews befriended him and got him safely away.

The Church and Art

DR. MANNIX ON AUSTRALIAN CULTURE.

In moving a vote of thanks to the Very Rev. Prior Power, O.C.C., who lectured in the Cathedral Hall, Fitzroy, Melbourne, recently, on "The Church and Art," his Grace the Archbishop, Dr. Mannix, touched on the visit of the Sistine Choir as a proof, if proof were needed, of the great interest taken by the Catholic Church in music.

When the announcement of the visit of the choir was made (said Dr. Mannix) very many people were concerned about the success that might be expected for the Papal Choir. It was recognised that the choir would give a perfect rendering of ecclesiastical music, but people feared that the modern ear might not appreciate old-world Church music. The choir came, and you know the success achieved. There might have been a little aloofness or even hostility at the beginning in certain quarters—I do not know if there was—but after the first night or two the atmosphere was cleared, and the Sistine Choir, with music from Rome that had come down from the mediæval centuries, captivated the modern ear of Melbourne. That, I think, gives us reason to hope that if we in Australia had some of the old models in architecture, in painting, in sculpture, and in art generally, we should certainly be able to admire and to value them. Who can say but in time we may even be able to copy them?

It has been said that Australians have some of the artistic temperament of southern Europe, continued his Grace. It is a pity that the treasures of European art are so far from our reach. Optimists say that Australians want nothing but the best models in order to attain the highest artistic culture. Australia is too young to have much artistic work to her credit. But I think we Catholics can boast that even here the Catholic Church is vindicating her claim to be the foster-mother of art. We are only a fraction of the people, and not the wealthy or leisured section; but the inspiration of the old Catholic days, or at all events some suggestion of it, seems to live again amongst the Catholic body in Australia. That accounts for St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, for example. St. Patrick's can safely stand comparison with anything that Australia has to boast of. The men who planned and built it are not altogether unworthy of those who did even greater things in Catholic lands in the olden days.

We gather from the lecture that Christian art flourished when the Church was flourishing; it declined when the Church was sundered. The so-called Reformation destroyed a civilisation which it has never been able to re-build. This does not prove directly that the Catholic Church is all that we claim for it. But it does surely prove that the Church of the Popes is, and was, something very different from what it is represented to be by hostile outsiders.

Paeroa

(From our own correspondent.)

June 14.

The mission conducted by Very Rev. Father Whelan, C.S.S.R., at Paeroa, Waikato, Karangahake, Netherton, Komata, and Hikutaia, during the last three weeks, was brought to a close on Sunday, the 11th inst. In each instance there was a very large attendance, and terminated with most gratifying results. Father Whelan left Paeroa for Thames on Thursday morning, where he will remain for a few weeks. This will bring to a close his missionary labors in the Auckland province.

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