

## Prisoners and Peace

### FRATRICIDAL STRIFE IN IRELAND: CARDINAL LOGUE AND GENERAL MULCAHY'S OFFER.

Mr. Liam Deasy, recognised by Michael Collins as one of the ablest of the Irregular military leaders, who is a prisoner under court-martial sentence, has undertaken to assist in securing the unconditional surrender of his comrades, with their arms (says the *Free Press* for February 17). He gives his reasons for this action at length in a statement which we reproduce below.

General Mulcahy, the Commander-in-Chief, in view of Mr. Deasy's action, proclaims a new offer of amnesty to those in arms against the Government which will remain open until Sunday, February 18.

#### Official Communication.

The following official communication was received from Army Headquarters on Thursday evening of last week:—

"Liam Deasy, 'Deputy Chief of Staff' of the Irregulars, was arrested by a Cahir column of troops at Ballincurry on the 18th ultimo, under the name of John Hurley. He was at first unidentified, but later his identity was established. He was tried by court-martial on the 25th ulto., charged with having in his possession without proper authority one long parabolium revolver and twenty-one rounds of ammunition. He was found guilty and sentenced to death, which sentence was duly confirmed; but before it was carried out Deasy requested an interview with the Commander-in-Chief, stating that it was 'for the future of Ireland,' and intimating that the question of peace had been having his consideration prior to his arrest. In view of the position which he held in the Irregular forces, arrangements were made to convey Deasy to Dublin, where the situation was discussed with him, and on the 29th ulto. he was facilitated in forwarding the following communication to certain of his associates, all executions being suspended, for a period, pending developments.

The communication reads as follows: "I have undertaken for the future of Ireland to accept and aid in an immediate and unconditional surrender of all arms and men, and have signed the following statement:—'I accept and I will aid in immediate and unconditional surrender of all arms and men, as required by General Mulcahy. Signed, Liam Deasy.'

"In pursuance of this undertaking, I am asked to appeal for a similar undertaking and acceptance from the following:—E. de Valera, P. Rutledge, A. Stack, H. Colivet, Domhnal O'Callaghan, Liam Lynch, Con Moloney, T. Derrig, F. Aiken, P. Barrett, T. Barry, S. MacSweeney, Seamus Robinson, Humphrey Murphy, Seamus O'Donovan, Frank Carty, and for the immediate and unconditional surrender of themselves after the issue by them of an order for this surrender on the part of all those associated with them, together with their arms and equipment." Nothing has resulted from this up to the present.

#### Further Overtures.

Statements on behalf of 600 prisoners in Limerick and 90 in Clonmel have also been issued deploring the continuance of the fratricidal strife and requesting parole for delegates to place their views as to the urgency for peace before their leaders.

Reports from Cork and Waterford state that many of those engaged in opposition to the Government have given up their arms and returned home.

Peace overtures, President Cosgrave stated to a London interviewer, have come from opponents of the Government in Cork, Kerry, Galway, Clare, Mayo, Tipperary, and Kilkenny. These aim at getting "the men of their own rebel force into the Army with rank similar to that which they hold." In short, the President added, Mr. de Valera hopes to bring about negotiations which will enable him to make a dignified withdrawal from his present position.

#### Cardinal Logue and General Mulcahy's Offer.

In an interview Cardinal Logue stated that Gen. Mulcahy's offer seemed to him most generous, and if the country was to be saved, it should be accepted.

#### North Wexford I.R.A. Officers' Convention.

A convention of neutral ex-officers of the I.R.A. in North Wexford was held in Enniscorthy on Sunday for the purpose of assisting in the Peace efforts now being made

by former members of the I.R.A. Mr. T. D. Sinnott presided, and there was a large and representative attendance. Preliminary steps were taken in furtherance of the Peace movement, and it was decided to hold another meeting on Sunday week, when a much larger attendance is expected.

## ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS' ORPHANAGE, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND

### An Appeal

God's ways are strange, but they are wise. We can be quite sure then that He had some very good purpose in sending the fire that has reduced the Boys' Orphanage, Takapuna, and everything in it, to complete ruin. Perhaps it was to give us all—Bishop, priests, and people—an opportunity of practising charity to Our Lord Himself in the person of 109 orphan boys. And certainly the many good Catholic people who eagerly claimed the privilege of giving a home for the next few months to 80 boys, and the many others who claimed the same privilege but for whom there were no orphans left—these performed a very beautiful act of charity.

Whilst we return heartfelt thanks to God for His kindly Providence in protecting the lives of the little ones and the Sisters, I am sure we are all determined to make sacrifices in order to provide another home for our orphans. We are appealing to our fellow-countrymen of other faiths, for charity knows no bounds, but we must take up our own responsibility and give the example.

The position is this: The new wing, happily untouched by fire, is costing about £10,000. We have to add to that and rebuild what is left of the old orphanage (the walls of one part are standing). These additions and the furniture will cost at least another £10,000. We require, therefore, the sum of £20,000.

We have now £7000 in hand, and the insurances will come to £3000. So we have to find the sum of £10,000.

Others will help—the kindness of non-Catholics at Takapuna to the orphans was unbounded—but it is mainly our work, and with God's blessing we will take it up and carry it out.

We earnestly beg of you, dear friends, to make a not unworthy offering to the Divine Babe of Bethlehem in the person of the orphan boys. Every one of us will give—men, women, and children. No offering can be too big, no offering if given at a sacrifice can be too small. Those who haven't much wealth will give what they can; those who have been blessed by God with the goods of fortune will gladly seize this opportunity of thanking Him. All will be generous, giving at the cost of a sacrifice twice as much as they first intended to give.

Fathers! Mothers! Help generously to build a good home for these 109 boys, even as you would like other fathers and mothers to build a home for your boy were he an orphan.

Young Men and Women! Give cheerfully a week's wages—you can do this easily by cutting out some amusements—and so do your share towards providing for these orphans what you have yourself—a good home.

Children! God is very kind to you because you have good parents and a comfortable home. Come and help your little orphan brothers.

Let us all earn the reward promised by Him who repays even a cup of water given in His name to "the least of these My little ones."

\* JAMES M. LISTON,

Coadjutor-Bishop of Auckland.

J. J. O'BRIEN,

G. H. FOSTER,

Treasurers.

H. F. HOLBROOK,

Secretary.

### Takapuna Orphanage

The following letter (£5 enclosed) has been received by the Superior of the Sisters of Mercy, Takapuna:—Dear Rev. Mother,—Owing to having received a great temporal favor through the intercession of St. Joseph, I am sending a small donation as a thanksgiving. This donation (£5) is towards the building fund for the orphanage. As I would like to know if you receive this money safely would you kindly acknowledge it in the *N.Z. Tablet*.

TRULY THANKFUL.

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