

the soil of Ireland who when reading of the destruction of the churches and cathedrals in Belgium and in France, who on reading of the butchery of the peaceful villagers, in reading of the ruins of convents, and of the murders of priests and of nuns—is there an Irishman who, when reading those things, is not proud of the fact that there are Irishmen at the front endeavoring to maintain right and justice and to punish these crimes. And I ask further, is there any Irishman living whose cheek would not burn with shame if it could be truly said of his country—Ireland—Ireland, the cradle of the fighting race—that it could be said of her that either from the base cowardice of her sons or from the ridiculous pretext of race hatred of England, or any other cause, that Ireland as a nation remained peacefully at home and allowed other men, by the risk of their lives, to save her from the fate of Belgium? I ask, further, is there a Catholic Irishman who would not blush with shame if it could be said that the only Irishmen who came to the succor of the friendly Catholic nation of Belgium were Orange Volunteers from Ulster? Happily, fellow-countrymen, there is no such danger. At this moment Ireland has 150,000 men of Irish birth with the colors. The Irish Brigade which, I believe, is destined to rival the glory of the old Irish Brigade, is rapidly filling up, and when the war is over, when the small nations of Europe are vindicated, when Belgium is revenged, when Prussian militarism is dead, then Ireland will be able to boast that in proportion to her means and, I believe, more than in proportion to her means, she has borne manfully.

Her Share in this Great Struggle.

and has once again vindicated the valor of her sons. Now, the third reason I give you is one on a lower plain altogether. It is summed up in the word 'Policy'; and I properly and designedly put that last. Still, it is a consideration to which no wise man can shut his eyes; and I put it to you that if, when the war is over, it can be truthfully said that whereas the Volunteers from Ulster had done their duty and borne their share, and in the South and West of Ireland had refused, I ask you what do you think the effect of that would be when we come, as we must, I suppose some day soon to the consideration of the Amending Bill. I do not press that argument too far, but it is right that I should point it out. I say as sensible men, as fair men, put yourselves for a moment in the position of Englishmen. I care not whether they be opponents of Home Rule or friends of Home Rule in the past, what would you do if it was proved to you that Ireland had broken faith, that Ireland had refused to do her duty, and that the only men in Ireland who had done their duty were the Ulster Volunteers? You know very well what any ordinary man would do and say under these circumstances. He would say, 'I'll stand by the men who stood by me.' I say therefore to you that there are three unanswerable grounds for the attitude that we have taken up, and that the Irish Nation has endorsed—first, the reason of honor, second the reason of justice, and third and last in importance, the reason of policy. Fellow-countrymen, you have done a good day's work here to-day in Limerick, and your Volunteer display was to me amazing in its size and in its efficiency. People say, some enemies of ours say, that these Volunteers, while they will parade at home in safety, will not do their duty where there is risk. It is a lie. On the 1st November last—these are the Government figures supplied to me—

16,442 Enrolled Members of the Irish Volunteers were with the colors. And, as you know, since then large numbers have joined. Now you know—every fair man knows—that the proportion who can join is comparatively small to the whole body. What I would say to those who cannot join is, that they can do a good work here at home in preparing themselves to be, what I hope some day they will be, efficient for home defence. I cannot for the life of me understand why it is that the Government and the War Office are so chary about giving assistance and instruction and help to turn these Volunteers into an effective—so far as they have to remain at home—into an efficient home

defence, when I see them doing exactly what I suggest they should do here over in England, and when they must know the magnificent material that is here at their hands for the purpose. You have done a good day's work for Ireland by your presence here to-day. You have proved your fidelity to your solemn undertakings. You have proved your loyalty to your leaders, and I say to you, deep down in my heart, I believe that future generations in a free and prosperous Ireland will look back with pride and gratitude at the spontaneous loyalty, fidelity, and courage of the people of Munster.

A resolution of confidence in Mr. Redmond was carried with acclamation, on the motion of Mr. W. R. Gubbins, chairman Limerick County Council, seconded by Mr. P. E. Burke, J.P.

The Right Rev. Monsignor Ryan, Tipperary, and Alderman Joyce, M.P., having also spoken, the meeting concluded.

There are three eminent personages who linger on in old age, having had more than an average share of sorrow and misfortune. The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, now in his 87th year, is tottering on the brink of the grave, and yet he may live to see the last of his empire, which can hardly escape disruption. The ex-Empress of the French, Eugenie, still lingers on in her English home, though the friends and greatness of her youth have long since passed away. A more pathetic figure is that of Charlotte, who lost her senses when her husband, Maximilian, was executed by his Mexican subjects nearly half a century ago.

The Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C., K.C.S.G., who is now in his 79th year, returned recently to Australia after spending twelve months in Europe. Mr. Meagher's primary object in undertaking the trip was that he might be present at the opening of the Irish Parliament. In this he was disappointed owing to the outbreak of the war. It is his intention, however, to visit Ireland again when this long-expected ceremony takes place.

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