

minister, the Rev. W. Parton Shinton, has been holding a weekly series of concerts for the detachments of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders quartered in a camp in the barrack grounds at Gravesend. Mr. Parton Shinton frequently sings at these concerts. 'His Scottish translation of the chorus of "Tipperary" was received with enthusiasm,' says the *Presbyterian Record*. Here it is:—

'It's a lang way tae Auchtermuchty,
It's a lang way tae Perth,
It's a lang way tae get tae anywhere,
Frae anywhere else on airth.
Guid-bye tae Ballachulish,
Farewell but an' ben,
It's a lang, lang way tae Auchtermuchty,
But we'll gang back again.

In the United States the Prohibitionists have sung, in somewhat limping measure it must be admitted, of yet another 'long way.'

'It's been a long way to Prohibition,
To the fairest land we know.
It's been a long way to Prohibition,
It's been a long way to go.

'So good-bye to Local Option.
High License we'll not spare.
It's a long, long way to Prohibition,
But we're almost there.

This may be—who knows?—the slogan in New Zealand at the next election.

America and the Rights of Neutrals

The one thing which alone seems able to stir President Wilson into definite action—or, rather, into definite utterance, for it is with him, first and last, little more than a matter of talk—is an interference with America's dollar-earning capacity. It was under this stimulus, it will be remembered, that his Administration roused itself into addressing, some two months ago, a Note of remonstrance to the British Government against Britain's contraband policy. The Note was concerned chiefly with shipments of foodstuffs and copper. The British Government replied with all possible politeness, but did not take the Note at all seriously, and definitely reaffirmed her decision classing foodstuffs and copper as unconditional contraband. That the Note was not to be taken as indicating any sympathy with Germany or antagonism to Britain on the part of the American people is made abundantly clear by an important explanatory telegram published in the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, and received by that paper from a trustworthy shipping agent in New York. 'Certain technical reasons,' says the message, 'have rendered it necessary that such a Note should be framed. Any suspicion of warlike feeling against England should be regarded as absurd. Our Government must do their best to keep an equipage of business interests, and President Wilson has been largely influenced in sending this Note from this point of view. There is, however, a strong resentment among the majority of United States citizens against this Note being permitted to indicate any sympathy with Germany. Already President Wilson has lost prestige through not protesting against Germany's outrages of neutral obligations in her attack upon Belgium. If he permits the present Note to cause heated feeling he is likely to become the object of great political opposition throughout the States, and especially in New York. It is realised that he has given way to great pressure.'

If President Wilson has 'lost prestige' in America through not protesting against Germany's violation of neutral rights in the case of Belgium, it may safely be asserted that his reputation has suffered still more severely in all the other English-speaking countries. Responsible parties are not in a position to speak freely; but a significant hint as to the feeling prevailing in English official circles is furnished by a recent action

of Lord Fisher, Britain's First Sea Lord. Having been asked by the United Press of America to send a Christmas message to the United States, Lord Fisher replied: 'Lord Fisher has to say (he is compelled to say) that the hope and good cheer that the Christmas spirit may bring humanity almost solely depends upon a hundred million of Christian men and women in America realising what "neutrality" means. "That word (neutrality) comes frozen on the frozen spray," so ask them, these hundred millions in the United States, to read William Watson's poem, herewith, to America concerning England.' Watson's poem is as follows:—

TO AMERICA.

Art thou her child, born in the proud midday
Of her large soul's abundance and excess:
Her daughter and her mightiest heritress,
Dowered with her thoughts and lit on thy great way
By her great lamps that shine and fail not? Yea!
And at this thunderous hour of struggle and stress,
Hither across the ocean wilderness,
What word comes frozen on the frozen spray?
Neutrality! The tiger from his den
Springs at thy mother's throat, and canst thou now
Watch with a stranger's gaze? So be it then.
Thy loss is more than hers: for, bruised and torn,
She shall yet live without thine aid, and thou
Without the crown divine thou might'st have worn.

The last two lines are underlined in the First Sea Lord's statement.

If the poets can be taken as the mouthpiece of the peoples, Mr. Watson's sentiments are not without a sympathetic response in the hearts of many Americans. America's reply has been voiced in the following verses by John Ernest Warren, librarian of the Dramatists' Club at New York:—

TO MOTHER ENGLAND.

Thy noble scorn, thy sad Cassandra sigh
'So be it, then', have struck us to the heart,
And flung the wide gates of our souls apart
To let our eagles, screaming, to thee fly
Upon the day that thou shalt to them cry:
'Come! help thy Mother, ere barbaric art
Flouts with blood our temples and each mart,
And all our babes and virgins crucify!
No traitor to Humanity can make
Us traitors to Humanity and thee,
O Mother England! cradle of our race!
God will not permit us to forsake
The great souls warring for our liberty,
And then to hope, one day, to see His face!

GENERAL OF THE JESUITS

A GERMAN POLE ELECTED.

A Rome message states that Very Rev. Father Lebochowski, a German Pole, has been elected General of the Jesuits. Strenuous efforts were made to defeat the French candidate, who was the favorite. The decision rested with the Spanish vote, which, owing to the German position, suggested Father Lebochowski as a compromise.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

A cable message from Sydney, under date February 11, states that the reception accorded Monsignor Cerretti, the newly appointed Apostolic Delegate, was the largest and most imposing Catholic ceremony ever held in Australia. A flotilla of ferry boats escorted the Delegate across the harbor, bands playing, crowds cheering, and bells pealing. Crowds lined the route to St. Mary's Cathedral, where an impressive official ceremony was held.