

CARDINAL MERCIER AND IRELAND

The Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, has received from Cardinal Mercier a very touching letter in acknowledgment of the contributions, amounting to £6405, of the bishops, clergy, and the laity of the four dioceses of the Dublin Ecclesiastical Province, at the church door collections in aid of the suffering people of Belgium. In the course of it Cardinal Mercier says:—

It is with feelings too deep to find an utterance that I received the expressions of brotherly love and kindness of the bishops and faithful of Ireland and the news of your munificent charity to us in our distress. If the widow's mite and a word of friendship would have sufficed to touch our hearts, what shall I say now of our wonder and gratitude on hearing of your high-souled and princely generosity? Our indebtedness to your noble and loving nation was already considerable. When your missionaries spread the faith broadcast to the neighboring peoples, we were among the first to reap the benefits of their work, and our Catholic population still venerates the memory of St. Ramold, St. Foillan, St. Ultan, St. Monon, and St. Etton, to whom, among others, they owe the light of the Gospel. Some centuries later, during the sombre days of your history, it was for us a joy to open our doors and welcome your sons to the schools of our alma mater. I myself look back with pleasure on the time when a daily intercourse with them at Leuven taught me to highly appreciate many an Irish fellow-student or pupil. And now, it is pleasurable, indeed, to unite them all in one and the same thought of sympathy.

As a tree may be judged by its fruits, so a nation by its sons. And through and by them we had learned Ireland's bravery and hospitality; her staunch adherence to her faith and patriotic traditions; and these qualities, which make great nations, together with the faith we shared, made her all the more lovable to us. Yet, with all this before us, never would we have dared to hope for such signal liberality as that which your Grace and your venerable colleagues of the Irish Episcopate announced to me, and several instalments of which have since then reached me through Monseigneur De Wachter, my coadjutor. And that which makes your beautiful charity a priceless one to our hearts is the knowledge that in the present hard times it is not of their abundance, but of their need, that your flock must have given.

Ah, indeed, the Isle of Saints keeps unshaken the standard of its glorious heritage, and continues to live up to the 'principles which give to man the strength of angels,' to quote the words written by Montaigne, Ireland's illustrious friend, at a dark hour of her history. And even as she has shown valiance and martyrdom, so her charity attains to magnanimity.

The memory of your brotherly help will live on in Belgium. And when one day, as I hope and desire, Belgium raises a testimonial in bronze or stone to her benefactors the names of Dublin, Kildare, Leighlin, Ossory, etc., will be given a prominent place. May God bless Ireland, so generous and fervent! May He save her from the calamities which have been visited upon us, and grant her long years of peace and welfare! Those are our grateful and heartfelt prayers on her behalf.

Last January, when first I heard of the wonderful help extended to us, I wrote at once to your Grace, despatching the letter through my coadjutor, Mgr. De Wachter, who is residing with Mgr. Amigo in Southwark. It is only quite lately that I have heard that this letter never got through, and must have been lost stopped on the way. I grieve over this; and hope your Grace will explain to all who have helped us why our thanks have been so long delayed.

Nature's sweet face is decked with jewels rare,
She weaves glad garlands in her sunny hair.
She is a lady, fair beyond compare,
But man is subject to her darker moods,
So to the rescue comes the cure of "Woods,"
The Peppermint Cure is really "just the goods."

THE LUSITANIA TRAGEDY

Throughout the United Kingdom indignation was roused to a white heat when the news was received of the torpedoing of the Lusitania by a German submarine on the afternoon of May 7. The cable messages at the time gave us full particulars of the deed which startled the civilised world, and our Irish exchanges publish many pathetic stories from surviving passengers.

An inquest on the bodies of five of the victims was held at Kinsale on May 9, the investigations being conducted by Coroner Horgan. The verdict of the jury was to the effect that the said deceased died from prolonged immersion and exhaustion owing to the sinking of the Lusitania by torpedoes fired without warning from a German submarine. 'We find,' continued the verdict, 'that this appalling crime was contrary to international law and the conventions of all civilised nations, and we therefore charge the officers of the said submarine and the Emperor and Government of Germany, under whose orders they acted, with wilful and wholesale murder before the tribunal of the civilised world.'

The Catholic Death Roll.

Although definite figures are not yet to hand (says an exchange), it is evident that a heavy Catholic death roll is to be expected. Of the crew alone some 60 per cent. were Catholics, and of these lost fully 300 were members of the various Catholic congregations of Liverpool. The outrage has exacted a terrible toll from the dockside parishes particularly. In the parishes of St. Sylvester's, Our Lady's, Eldon street, and St. Alban's, over sixty homes have been plunged into mourning, while St. Alphonsus' congregation and that of St. Alexander's, and St. James', Bootle, have also suffered severely. On Sunday, May 9, prayers for the repose of the souls of those who had so tragically lost their lives were asked from all the Catholic pulpits. Requiem Masses are being said during the present and forthcoming weeks at all the churches mentioned.

Amongst the passengers who went down with the ship is Mr. T. O'Brien Butler, the noted Irish musical composer, whose death will be a great loss to distinctive Irish music. Dr. McDermott, surgeon on board the ill-fated liner, was also drowned. He was a member of the parish of St. Alban's, Liscaul, and he, with two other members of the congregation who were lost, was prayed for at that church on Sunday. The famous preacher and writer, Father Basil Maturin, is also amongst the drowned.

The Rev. Father C. Cowley Clarke, who was travelling with Father Maturin, in the course of an interview, said one of the officers told him that six of the boilers were out of commission, and that the ship could not go at more than twenty-two knots an hour, and that they saved 1000 tons of coal on the journey by having these six boilers shut down.

Funeral Scenes.

The first funeral of the victims took place at Queenstown on Monday. It was of a semi-military character and was attended by representatives of the Canard Company, the Cork Corporation, the Queenstown Urban Council, and the County and Rural Councils. A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated at Queenstown Cathedral, his Lordship the Bishop of Clonane presiding, in the presence of an immense congregation, which included Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Coke, the representatives of the Naval Staff. General Hill, Colonel Dueroft, and Major Wade represented the military headquarters staff.

Men from a number of Irish regiments lined the route. From the 48th Royal Irish Regiment there was a party of sixty-eight men at the gates of Queenstown Cemetery to unload the coffins; and a party of one hundred were distributed round the cemetery to prevent the public entering. Dense crowds of silent, tearful men and women watched the procession as it passed through the streets. The American victims are not being interred, but the bodies of those identified were sealed up preparatory to being sent back to New York. Photographs of those not identified have been taken previous to the bodies being placed in coffins.

**LEARN SHORTHAND
IN THIRTY DAYS**

Boyd Shorthand can be mastered perfectly in thirty days, and the study may be done in your own home. Call or write for particulars. **BOYD SHORTHAND SCHOOLS, 100 CUSTOM HOUSE QUAY, WELLINGTON.**